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LD191312 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iran Warning to U.S.—Any U.S. military "aggression" against Iran will certainly be the beginning of an extensive clash in the Gulf, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman warned in a statement reported by Tehran radio 19 October. Accusing the United States of escalating tension in the region, the spokesman said Iran will "decisively answer" any new U.S. attack. The radio also cited a military spokesman who said Iran has not accepted responsibility for the attack on the *Sea Isle City*, but "whatever happened was the natural consequence of U.S. actions" in the Gulf.

Kuwaiti Protest—The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires 17 October to protest the recent missile attacks on oil tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters, a Foreign Ministry source disclosed in a statement cited by KUNA. A Kuwaiti official subsequently stressed that Kuwait should adopt a "new action program" to deal with Iran's "aggressive practices and enroachments," KUNA reported. Iran's missile attacks on tankers in Kuwaiti waters were also condemned by the Saudi Government in a statement that called for urgent international action to stop Iran's "encroachments," according to SPA. As for the effects of the 16 October Iranian attack on the *Sea Isle City*, medical sources cited by KUNA noted that 18 crewmen were injured, including the U.S. captain and two other Americans.

Other Iran-U.S. Developments--In a statement reported by Tehran radio, Iran's navy commander confirmed that an Iranian warship fired warning shots at a U.S. helicopter in the Gulf 16 October, explaining that the helicopter had approached within the 5-mile distance which Iran requires foreign aircraft to keep from Iranian vessels. The ship fired in the "vicinity" of the helicopter, which was forced to change course, he said. Radio Monte Carlo noted that none of the NBC television personnel in the helicopter were hurt.

In another development, Tehran radio quoted claims by the IRGC navy commander that U.S. Marines inflicted "acts of torture and savagery" on the four captured IRGC combatants who were returned to Iran over the weekend.

Iran-Iraq Military Activity—Approximately 100 Iraqi aircraft raided Iranian military concentrations in the northern sector 17 October, killing large numbers of Iranian Guards, an Iraqi military spokesman told INA. While acknowledging that one Iraqi plane was hit in the raid, the spokesman denied Iranian claims that other Iraqi aircraft were downed during raids the same day against the Emam Hasan oil field and a maritime target in the Gulf. Iran's assertion that Iranian warplanes shot down an Iraqi Mirage over the Gulf 16 October was likewise denied by an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA. Meanwhile, Iranian aircraft attacked targets inside Iraq 16 and 18 October, according to Tehran radio reports.

Iranian Diplomacy—The U.S. intervention in the Gulf was discussed and condemned by both sides during talks in Damascus between Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and the Syrian foreign minister, Tehran radio reported. A Damascus television report on the 18 October talks noted that "emphasis was placed on the need not to expand the war and to withdraw foreign fleets from Gulf waters." Musavi discussed bilateral cooperation during talks with the Syrian prime minister, the television disclosed.

The Gulf situation was also discussed during talks in Havana between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Cuban counterpart, who welcomed the trend toward expansion of relations between Iran and Cuba, according to Tehran radio. In Tehran, President 'Ali Khamene'i received a Libyan envoy who delivered a "special message" from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the radio reported. The envoy briefed Khamene'i on Libya's attitude toward the Gulf issue, stressing the Libyan leadership's belief that "progressive" states should take a decisive stand against the presence of foreign military forces in the Gulf.

Iran

Aqazadeh in Moscow—Basic agreement was reached in Moscow at the conclusion of talks between Iranian and Soviet delegations on mutual deliveries of oil and oil products across the Caspian Sea, TASS announced. The Iranian delegation led by Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh agreed to continue examining the possibility of building oil pipelines between the two countries.

Corpses Returned—The bodies of over 50 Iranian victims of the 31 July "bloody Friday" in Mecca were returned for an 18 October mass funeral, Tehran radio reported. High-ranking officials were on hand to meet the plane carrying the last of the Mecca "martyrs" which were kept in Saudi mortuaries pending negotiations on their return, IRNA added.

U.S., Soviet Diplomacy

Shultz Tour—George Shultz and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir exchanged "opinions which could be described as innovative" during their talks on possible direct negotiations between Israel and Arab sides, the director general of Shamir's office told IDF radio in an 18 October interview. However, "we did not learn any new things" from the secretary of state, the official said, noting that Shultz had come to Israel to "check our positions" rather than to present new ideas. In contrast, *The Jerusalem Post* reported the same day that Shultz proposed "new ideas for breaking the Middle East peace logjam" during his "shuttle talks" with Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Shultz did not seek to mediate in the dispute between the Israeli leaders over an international conference, but his discussions with them focused on "practical ideas" for advancing the peace process, according to the *Post's* sources.

On the Arab side, a Palestinian source cited by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio announced that Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories decided to boycott Shultz during

his visit. Three Palestinian personalities declined an invitation to meet Shultz and explained their decision in a letter to him which was signed by "dozens" of Palestinian figures and organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the source noted. A related commentary by the radio described the secretary of state's tour as a "new conspiracy," adding that Shultz "will not find one national figure in our occupied homeland to meet with" because "no one will agree to stab his people, antagonize the PLO, and stand at the side of the Israelis." An editorial in Amman's *Al-Dustur* said the Arabs do not expect the visit to alter the U.S. "unstinted support for Israeli aggression," while Damascus radio cited a Syrian press article which viewed Shultz' visit as an attempt to "divert" the forthcoming Arab summit from its "pan-Arab objectives."

Shultz' 17 October meeting with Saudi King Fahd in Jeddah was mentioned by Riyadh radio in a factual report that gave no details of their talks. In a report cited by WAM, the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* said that Fahd gave Shultz a "very important and useful talk" reflecting Saudi and GCC views on the Gulf conflict.

Vorontsov Tour—Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov said his talks with the Jordanian crown prince and prime minister were "an excellent opportunity" to exchange views on issues of mutual importance, Amman radio noted in a report on Vorontsov's 16-17 October visit to Jordan. Vorontsov subsequently arrived in Damascus where he conveyed a message from the Soviet leadership to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported. Vorontsov's talks with Al-Asad focused on efforts to convene an international peace conference and on the situation in the Gulf, the radio added. Diplomatic sources in Damascus disclosed that Vorontsov has urged the Arab states which he visited to coordinate with the PLO on their stands toward an international conference, according to QNA.

PLO

Talks With Syria—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with four PNC members closely affiliated with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus 11 October, according to a Palestinian source in Beirut quoted by Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio noted that Soviet pressure was behind the first conciliatory talks between Syria and the PLO since their relations deteriorated in 1983. For his part, 'Arafat was quoted by KUNA as saying: "We have exchanged messages and there is a new message from the Syrian leadership which we are going to answer."

'Arafat in Baghdad—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held talks with Yasir 'Arafat on preparations for the upcoming Arab summit, INA reported.

Abu Nidal Official—The Abu Nidal organization has placed its forces in Lebanon on alert following the disappearance of one of its senior officials, Voice of Lebanon radio announced. It is "probable," the radio added, that the official's arrest came through U.S.-SFRY cooperation as part of an antiterrorism campaign in Lebanon, France, Italy, and the FRG.

Syria

Soviet Drones—The UAE paper *Al-Khalij* reported 18 October that the USSR recently supplied Syria with a number of sophisticated pilotless aircraft which have never before been exported outside the Soviet Union. The report, which was cited by WAM and KUNA, added that the supply of drones is an attempt to bolster Syrian air defenses in light of lessons learnt from the 1982 war in Lebanon.

Internal Affairs—A 14 October article in Kuwait's *Al-Siyasah* cited "rumors" that five Syrian cabinet ministers have expressed a desire to resign in order to avoid hostile questioning from the People's Assembly. Recent parliamentary questioning of the agriculture minister led to his trial and imprisonment, the paper noted.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba decided at a 17 October meeting to revoke his 2 October appointment of Mahjoub Ben Ali as director of the Destourian Socialist Party (DSP), Tunis radio reported. The radio cited an announcement by the prime minister noting Bourguiba's decision to appoint Hamed Karoui as DSP director, replacing Ben Ali "who is recalled for other tasks."

Afghanistan

Party Meetings—A PDPA Central Committee Plenum held 17 October in Kabul discussed "organizational issues," Kabul radio reported. According to the radio, 10 new PDPA Central Committee members and 3 new candidate members were elected. Among the 11 relieved of membership in the Central Committee were Mahmud Barialay and Anahita Ratebzad. Four others were relieved of their Central Committee candidate memberships. As for the Politburo, Najmuddin Kawiani, Niyaz Muhammad Muhmand, and Haydar Mas'ud were promoted to full PDPA Central Committee Politburo membership.

PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najib spoke at the opening of a PDPA conference on the country's national reconciliation policy 18 October, *Bakhtar* reported. Najib read the Central Committee report on the party's tasks and on "speeding up the process of national reconciliation."

Attempted Sabotage—A taxi loaded with 114 kg of explosives was discovered and defused by militiamen in one of Kabul's central squares near government buildings 15 October, TASS announced.

New Rebel Chief—Mawlawi Muhammad Yunos Khales was unanimously elected 18 October as chief of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance, according to an AFP report citing rebel sources. AFP added that the system of rotating leadership has been abolished with Khales elected chief of the alliance for 18 months.

Palestinian Affairs

Pro-PLO Figures To Boycott Shultz Visit

JN161348 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] The PFLP has asked Palestinian figures in the occupied territory to respond to a PLO decision to boycott U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and not to contact him. The PFLP warned all those who are toying with the idea of violating national consensus.

The DFLP has also called for boycotting the Shultz visit. It called for a strike today and tomorrow and warned Palestinian figures against deviating from national consensus.

A Palestinian source in Jerusalem said that pro-PLO figures in the occupied territory have decided to boycott Shultz' visit and that Palestinian organizations have called on shopkeepers in the occupied territories to observe a general strike today and tomorrow during Shultz' stay in Israel.

Among the pro-PLO Palestinian figures who have received an invitation to meet with Shultz are Mustafa al-Natshah, Sa'id Kan'an, and Sari Nusaybah. In a letter to the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, which was also signed by many Palestinian dignitaries and officials from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the three men explained their position on a Palestinian settlement based on the following points:

1. Considering the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

2. Recognizing the Palestinian right of self-determination and of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

3. Rejecting UN Security Council Resolutions No 242 and 338 because they regard the Palestinians as refugees.

4. Demanding the convocation of an international peace conference in which the PLO will participate with other parties on equal footing.

5. Protesting against the closure of the PLO office in Washington.

6. Expressing the hope that Shultz' visit to Moscow will find a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli dispute.

A meeting between Shultz and Palestinian figures was expected to be held tomorrow evening either in the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem or in the hotel where Shultz will stay. It is not clear yet if the meeting will be canceled or if it will be confined to the pro-Jordanian figures, which is the desire of Israeli officials.

Further on Boycott

JN161938 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] According to a Palestinian source, Palestinian national figures inside the occupied territory have decided to boycott U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the occupied territory. Shultz arrived in the occupied Palestinian territory today.

The same source said that Palestinian figures in the occupied territory have called for a general strike during Shultz' 2-day visit. Three Palestinian figures have recently received an invitation to meet with Shultz. These figures are: Mustafa al-Natshah, former mayor of Hebron; Sa'id Kan'an, one of the prominent Nabulus figures; and Sari Nusaybah, a professor at Bi'r Zayt University near Ramallah.

These figures told the U.S. Consulate in occupied Jerusalem that they will not accept the invitation but will present a letter to Shultz explaining their position. The letter, which was written and signed by dozens of Palestinian figures and organizations from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, makes the following points:

1. To consider the PLO the sole legitimate reopresentative of the Palestinian people.

2. To stress the right of the Palestinians to self-determination and to establishing an independent state.

3. To reject UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 because they deal with the Palestinian issue as one of refugees.

4. To demand the holding of an internatioinal conference in which the PLO will participate with other countries on an equal footing.

5. To protest against the closure of the PLO Washington office. [No sixth point given]

'Text' of Palestinian Memo To Secretary Shultz

JN181944 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 87

["Text" of a memorandum submitted to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz by unnamed Palestinians through the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] Mr George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state.

Mr Minister: Twenty hard years have passed since the Israeli occupation of our homeland during which over 1.5 million Palestinians have lost their freedom and become the target of an Israeli scheme to return us to the Middle Ages. In pursuit of this impossible goal, the Israeli authorities set out to use all kinds of repressive

practices, including building settlements, confiscating land, attempting to extinguish Palestinian nationalism, and violating all human rights conventions.

Your proposal 3 years ago to improve living conditions for the Palestinians under occupation came as a surprise to our Palestinian people. It is inconceivable that there can be liberal occupation; occupation can only mean the forcible subjugation of one people by another. Occupation and improving living conditions are therefore an impossible combination. Furthermore, from the moment you raised this point the Israeli authorities sought to escalate their repressive measures against our people and institutions. You may familiarize yourself with details of our suffering over the past 3 years at the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

Mr Minister, in our opinion continued Israeli occupation, coupled with American support, which is a hallmark of the present administration, robs the United States of moral credibility. U.S. decisionmakers continue to refuse to recognize the basic right of our Palestinian people to self-determination. They also refuse to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people who decided and affirmed this representation. Peace efforts in the region will hardly be helped by the continuation of the current American position.

An unchanged American position symbolizes the absence of a will to establish the foundations for a just peace whereby the rights and aspirations of all peoples in the region—above all those of Palestinians—are realized. The United States must reconsider its commitments and policies, particularly the policy of ignoring the PLO and the national rights of the Palestinian people.

It must be recalled that 75 initiatives have been presented since 1948 to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute. All of them met with failure since they failed to take into account the true political and national dimensions of the Palestinian issue. We have always cherished the hope that a just solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute will be reached.

We would like to call your attention to the following facts that must be taken into consideration when the Arab-Israeli dispute comes up for discussion or negotiation: First, the only road to initiating the peace process is a UN-sponsored international peace conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all of the parties to the dispute, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, both those under occupation and those in exile.

Second, the Palestinian people reject the current version of UN Security Council Resolution 242 given the national and political nature of their cause. The national and political side of the Palestinian cause has found expression in the Palestinians' yearning to exercise their right to self-determination, set up a state on their national soil, and choose their own representatives without Israeli or other pressures.

Third, our Palestinian people have made known their support for their sole legitimate representative; namely, the PLO.

Fourth, we call on the U.S. Administration to honor the principles and code of the United Nations, of which the United States was a founding member, and to specifically pressure the Israeli Government to treat the Palestinian people according to the laws and conventions drafted by the United States [as heard] concerning peoples that come under occupation.

Fifth, we believe that occupation and improving living conditions are diametrically opposed; the two are mutually exclusive. Continuing to link them only means encouraging continued occupation.

Sixth, our pople would like to stress their abiding commitment to a just and comprehensive peace; the cost of a continuing status quo would be borne by our people. We would like the American people to become acquainted with our thinking since they have only heard the Israeli side of the story.

Seventh, it is hoped that your meeting with the Soviet foreign minister will lay the groundwork for a joint American-Soviet effort promoting the forces of peace and diplomacy rather than those of violence and war.

Eighth, we denounce the decision to close the Palestinian Information Office in Washington and view it as the result of pressure from the Zionist lobby in the United States. It is hoped the decision will be reversed to keep our restricted lines of communication open.

PLO Radio Commentary Views Shultz Tour

JN162041 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1825 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Station commentary: "George Shultz' Tour Is a New Conspiracy and Exposed Maneuver"]

[Text] Brothers, O militant heroic masses: In the most hated Zionist entity, our enemies are preparing to receive U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who intends to begin his Middle East tour with a visit to the Zionist entity to receive the racist Zionist occupiers' warm congratulations for his crime against the Palestinian people and their cause, as well as against the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. George Shultz, who is coming to the Zionist entity, committed that crime by closing down PLO offices in the United States. Now he is coming to his racist Zionist allies to receive their congratulations on and admiration for his crime against the Palestinian people.

Moreover, George Shultz is coming to the Zionist entity to bless the Zionist policy of repression and torture, as well as the policy of the iron fist, mass annihilation, and direct physical liquidation by the Zionist occupation soldiers of our heroic steadfast people in the occupied homeland. This fascist, racist, and Nazi policy is being used by the Zionists with the blessing of Americans such as George Shultz and others, believing that under the pressure of this policy and its pains our people may bow, lose hope and will, and agree to their capitulatory plans, projects, settlements, and wicked and poisoned maneuvers.

On 14 October, the Zionist newspaper *Hadashot* revealed the entire matter and announced the new secrets of George Shultz' tour even before it began and before the snake's fatal poison could harm anyone. The Zionist paper says that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is coming to the region and to the Zionist entity carrying a new capitulatory settlement plan, which calls for job distribution in the occupied homeland. In other words, the civil administration will be transferred to Jordan, the Zionist enemy will continue to assume the responsibility of maintaining security, the issue of settlement will continue, and the occupation will enjoy an absolute domination. This is what the Zionist newspaper *Hadashot* says.

As you see, the matter is not new. Zionists have previously said a lot about it. They have also cooperated with the Americans in undermining and paralyzing the idea of an international conference to turn it into a formal canopy under which this wicked and poisoned plot can pass. What is new in the subject is that George Shultz made arrangements with the Zionists and other sides to meet with a number of people in the occupied homeland and hint that his fatal conspiracies have gained the agreement of some Palestinians. When the news of this maneuver spread, our people in the Gaza Strip and West Bank voiced their deep anger.

We also learned that George Shultz will not find one national figure in our occupied homeland to meet with him. Everyone decided to boycott George Shultz and to continue the popular uprising, as well as other protests such as strikes and demonstrations in schools and universities and civil disobedience in all our national institutions. We have also learned that thousands of detainees in Zionist enemy jails decided to stage a comprehensive sit-in and violent protest against George Shultz' visit and his wicked, poisoned plots.

In light of the incidents over the past 2 weeks in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, Nabulus, Ramallah, Bi'r Zayt, Qalqilyah, and in all the West Bank cities, villages, and camps, political observers stress that George Shultz' visit will completely fail. These observers say that Shultz will find no Palestinian to meet because no one will agree to stab his people, antagonize the PLO, and stand by the side of the Israelis, who kill Palestinians in broad daylight. This is what political observers emphasize.

We in the PLO have extreme confidence in our great people, in our militant generations, in our youths who voice challenge under the most difficult circumstances, and in our children who use stones, knives, and incendiary bombs and who surprise the whole world with their heroism and continued sacrifices. We also have confidence that no one can harm the strong and deep national consensus in occupied Palestine because such a consensus on the PLO is the outcome of the past years and the various kinds of struggle.

George Shultz and his Zionist allies and their supporters will be mistaken if they believe that this exposed conspiracy and maneuver may convince some people and penetrate this strong wall of the comprehensive national unanimity of our heroic people, especially since no one has forgotten George Shultz' crime of closing down PLO offices in the United States.

Let George Shultz come and let him cooperate with his allies and supporters. He will see our heroic, lofty Palestinian people raise the flag of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, the leader of their struggle, and the symbol of their political entity. Our people are unified and will remain strong. Conspiracies will be destroyed, conspirators will fall, and those who are trying to sell themselves to the devil will reap disgrace and the curses of history and the people which will pursue them forever.

KUNA Interviews Fatah's Salah Khalaf 15 Oct

LD151133 Kuwait KUNA in English 0903 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Report by Jassim Mattar]

[Text] Tunis, Oct 15 (KUNA)—The current snowballing Palestinian upheaval in the occupied lands will continue till Palestinian people are granted self-determination and the legitimate right to return to their homeland, according to a top Palestinian official here Thursday.

Fatah Central Committee member, Salah Khalaf, said the uprising was not fomented by the PLO, "but came as a natural response to the fascist, racist and suppressive measures instituted by Israeli occupation authorities."

Khalaf, in an exclusive interview with KUNA, noted that the demonstrations, which began six days ago, marked the first time the Gaza Strip started anti-Israeli demonstrations that later spread to other occupied Palestinian territories.

The official, better known as Abu Iyad, sounded dissatisfaction over Arab media coverage of the massive demonstrations, which have left scores of Palestinians dead and injured.

Turning to the forthcoming Arab summit, Khalaf indicated the PLO could not oppose giving the Iran-Iraq war primacy during the summit talks.

He pointed out that the lingering Gulf war had diminished Arab military and economic struggle against the Israeli entity, and worst, helped Tel Aviv expand its wanton aggression on Lebanon and Palestinian presence there.

Abu Iyad stressed a strong link between terminating the Gulf war and the launch of a fresh phase of anti-Israeli struggle marked by strength and resolve.

Khalaf advised Arab governments to speak with one voice on the Iran-Iraq conflict in international forums and stressed such a move would galvanize stronger universal support to ending the war, which last month entered its eighth year.

Abu Iyad noted that the Palestinian delegation to the summit will be headed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Turning to Palestinian-American affairs, Khalaf disclosed what he described as "the most dangerous" bill being drafted in the U.S. Congress to outlaw the PLO as a terrorist organization. The Palestinian official lamented the absence of any Arab countermeasures in Washington.

Commenting on relations with Syria, Abu Iyad indicated the five-year rift with Damascus would not be easily solved, but he stressed a PLO desire to mend fences. Rather than having indirect contacts, he emphasized it is in mutual interest to maintain direct engagements, for "there could be no better alternative to Arab-Arab links."

Asked if the PLO would endorse Egypt's reinstatement in the Arab League, during the forthcoming Amman summit, the Palestinian official said "the ball is in Egypt's court."

PLO Notes Amal Attacks, Israeli Flights

JN152010 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1812 GMT 15 Oct 87

["Text" of two PLO military communiques; dates and places not given]

[Text] The first military communique: Within the framework of the Zionist enemy's scheme of a war of annihilation against our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and in the Lebanese camps, enemy warplanes carried out intensive flights over Sidon and the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah camps. The enemy planes carried out a number of mock raids over the camps.

The enemy Air Force's intensive activity comes amidst increasing Zionist military concentrations in southern Lebanon, in addition to the concentrations by some sides in the Amal Movement in the areas surrounding our people's camps near Sidon. Revolution until victory.

The second military communique: In continuation of their attempts to obstruct the implementation of the 11 September 1987 agreement, some Amal Movement quarters opened artillery and heavy and medium machinegun fire on our people's camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, as well as on nearby nationalist Lebanese-Palestinian positions.

These gangs continued to open fire intermittently, although the camps' defenders are committed to not responding to the sources of fire to thwart the intentions of these rancorous sides, which implement the enemy's warning to the Amal Movement against the implementation of the 11 September 1987 agreement providing for ending the camps war and its consequences. Revolution until victory.

Fatah's 'Atallah 'Atallah Addresses Camp Rally

JN141111 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Oct 87 pp 1, 15

["Text" of speech by 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu al-Za'im, commander of the Corrective Movement in Fatah and the PLO, during an organizational meeting of the Corrective Movement's popular committee held at the Schneller refugee camp in Amman; date not given]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, our kinfolk in the Schneller refugee camp, the great Palestinian gathering that includes a select group of our honorable people, these that stand united together with the other sections of our people everywhere and rally around the Corrective Movement to build anew the PLO: We all hold on to the PLO as our sole legitimate representative.

We vow to you and to the masses of our Palestinian people as strugglers and revolutionaries that the PLO will continue to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. That has been our choice from the very beginning and it is foremost among our political principles. The PLO, which was built with martyrs and baptized with the sacrifices of our people, is the political and moral home and the Palestinian identity of us all. The PLO is not the gangs which deviated from the goal and lost the way. The PLO is the entire Palestinian people wherever they may be.

Work for the PLO was first begun by the late struggler Ahmad al-Shuqayri. It was founded for all the Palestinian people as one organization for one people sharing the same destiny and with the same goal. That great achievement of our people is dominated by a gang that seeks personal gains and monopolizes decisionmaking and the leadership, thus excluding the Palestinian people who cannot join its ranks unless they declare their allegiance to one of these gangs or groups.

These gangs and idols have not been content with the sacrifices of the Palestinian people. This people has given more than any other people for their homeland. They have made sacrifices and given their trust. They have given everything and received only suffering and pain.

Armed with self-criticism we have proceeded ahead in this march, and in this Corrective Movement, in the forefront of the ranks to ensure that this Movement will be for all the Palestinian people and that it will correct the Palestinian national march. It will restore matters to the right course, the clear course. It will restore rights to their owners and it will restore the PLO to its legitimate owners, the Palestinian people, all the Palestinian people.

The sounder and more correct road lies in uniting the Palestinian people in a single popular organization, with all the Palestinian people joining such an organization in their various locations and from various social strata. Their task will be to protect the organization against those who dominate it and against deviation and fall and to lead it and the Palestinian people toward a unified goal.

Through a single popular organization we proceed to an important turning point and to the only way to rearrange the Palestinian house; namely, the Palestinian Popular General Congress, which held its first and only session in 1967. Such a Congress will be the highest authority and the decisionmaking body. From it will stem the People's Assembly, the Central Committee, and the Executive Bureau in a sound democratic process that has clear bases. All the Palestinian people will participate in that process through their representatives in the Congress.

Our first task then is to rearrange the Palestinian house. We will not allow anyone to interfere in this Palestinian matter. Arab kings and presidents realize that there can be no trusteeship over the people for it is the people who have the final say and the first choice. The whole world is awaiting the Palestinian people's decision.

When the people have their say and exercise self-determination through the Palestinian Popular Congress, they must accept this choice. We do not and will not allow ourselves to interfere in internal Arab affairs, but at the same time we do not and will not allow anyone to interfere in our affairs or impose their trusteeship upon us.

After that we will proceed to rearrange our international relations on the basis of equal relations and mutual respect in accordance with existing international laws. The whole world is now waiting for the Palestinian option and the Palestinian stand.

The world is now living in an atmosphere of peace. Everyone is endeavoring to settle international disputes peacefully. In view of its international sensitivity, our cause is foremost among the world's hot issues.

The Palestinian question is the focus of world concern. Therefore, the solution must be an international one. The solution which we accept must come through an invitation by the UN secretary general to convene an international peace conference on the Palestinian question to be attended by all the parties to the dispute, including the PLO within a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the representatives of the five member states of the UN Security Council.

We are neither interested in names nor in superficialities. We are only interested in the results of the conference which must be in favor of our legitimate right to expel the Zionist usurper from our occupied land and to set up our independent national state on our Palestinian soil, which is dearer to us than any other land. We are not seeking a homeland here and there. We want a homeland on our Palestinian land; a homeland which connects with the Palestinian wherever he may be. We have had enough of multiple Palestinian identities—Jordanian Palestinian, Syrian Palestinian, Lebanese Palestinian, Egyptian Palestinian, and so forth.

We want a single identity for all Palestinians. This can only be achieved by establishing our national political entity on the land of Palestine. This is what we want from the peace efforts in this phase. The continuation of the march is the responsibility of future Palestinian generations.

We are creating the nucleus for Arab unity through an independent Palestinian state and the confederation with our Jordanian brothers. Jordan is our gateway to the world. This fateful cohesion between the two peoples cannot be severed. The Palestinians and the Jordanians share a common destiny.

This does not mean that there is no unity between us now. The unity exists but it is split. It is a unity between two banks and we want it to be a unity between two peoples; a complete comprehensive unity. This unity can only come through a confederation between a Jordanian state and a Palestinian state; a unity in which all the Palestinian people are united with the Jordanian people.

These are our objectives, O brothers. We will not give up or bow down. Yes, we are for international peace. We are for confederation with Jordan. We will not relinquish the independent national Palestinian identity. We will not relinquish the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative.

Thus, your movement, the Corrective Movement, will not be a split or secessionist movement. It will not be another group to be added to the other little bands which went astray. We are a vanguard revolutionary democratic movement. Through you and with you we are heading the entire Palestinian national struggle march. We are working together as one hand for the sake of one system, one people, one organization, and one destiny.

The Corrective Movement is the conscience of this people. I come from your ranks. I pledge to you that I will be your obedient servant. I will work for you. We pledge to you that this Movement will be your conscience, heart, and mind, as well as the guardian of your interests.

We were planning to hold the Popular General Congress but the fact that the Arab summit is going to be convened on the same date prompted us to postpone our conference. We will not allow the Palestinian seat to be vacant at this summit or at any other international framework because this seat belongs to the Palestinian people and not to this or that side. 'Arafat will attend this summit and if he does not, I will ensure that he attends because we will not allow anyone to bypass our presence or allow Palestine's seat to be vacant.

Dear brothers and sisters, I cannot but appreciate the king of this country who has given us the freedom of movement and the necessary security to speak to you and with you whenever and about whatever we wish. We greatly appreciate this noble stand by Husayn ibn Talal. We praise his efforts in the Arab arena and are proud of this king whose country will host the extroardinary Arab summit.

This confirms King Husayn's great efforts to heal the Arab rift. The summit will be convened soon and it will be a gateway through which these charlatans will try to stir up storms in their cups and glasses in a desperate attempt to undermine this movement.

However, I can see victory for this Movement, a victory for the will of the Palestinian masses. Thus, I urge further struggle and more confidence in the inevitable victory. Let us unify our ranks for the sake of our Palestinian cause and to convene our General Popular Congress.

This overwhelming popular movement has started to cover all the places where our people are present. I would like to give you the good news that an organization has started inside the occupied land. It is bigger and stronger than you think and it is constantly growing.

Therefore, we must make our national cause the topic of conversation everywhere, at home, in the street, at schools, and in coffee shops. O sons of our people, come forward and practice your natural right in the PLO membership. Revolution until victory.

At the end of the meeting, the brother commander in chief answered questions by a number of brothers who took part in the meeting. In response to a question about Palestinian representation in the General Popular Congress, Brother Abu al-Za'im said:

We are doing our utmost to enable the Palestinian people to be correctly represented at this Congress to make it a true expression of this great people. To secure this representation, we adopted the following principles to attract representatives:

First, the general Palestinian representation. This will be according to geographical locations and will include all our cities, villages, and refugee camps in the occupied land and Jordan and throughout the diaspora.

Second, the geographical representation will be according to the proportions of our people in the diaspora.

Third, the social cross section. Here we mean the professional status in society through our federations, such as the federations of workers, farmers, lawyers, teachers, doctors, writers, journalists, women, youth, businessmen, and university professors.

Egypt

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz Visits Cairo

Arrives in Cairo 19 Oct

NC190834 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0822 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt that will last several hours. The visit comes as part of his tour of a number of Middle East countries.

Begins Talks

NC190907 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0828 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Official Egyptian-U.S. talks opened at the Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel at 0950 this morning. The Egyptian delegation to the talks is led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the U.S. delegation is headed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Egyptian delegation includes Assistant Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Makhluf; Ambassador 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egypt's envoy to Washington; Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, head of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Department; and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, head of the Organizations Department at the Foreign Ministry. The U.S. delegation to the talks includes members of the team accompanying Shultz and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Cairo.

Meets Prime Minister Sidqi

NC191057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi held a round of talks today with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who is currently visiting Cairo. The talks dealt with the ongoing efforts to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East, as well as the developments in the Gulf. The 1-hour session was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary of state.

In a statement after the talks, Prime Minister Sidqi said the discussion had covered the economic and political relations existing between the two countries, noting that the U.S. team had expressed understanding of the Egyptian viewpoint.

Meets With Mubarak

NC191132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1118 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz at the Presidential Palace at noon today. Meanwhile, the Egyptian and U.S. teams also held talks. On the Egyptian side the talks were attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egypt's ambassador to Washington. The U.S. delegation to the talks included Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy; Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo; and members of the U.S. team accompanying Shultz.

Mideast Conference Discussed

NC191151 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that during their meeting today U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz briefed President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the talks he has held in the Middle East in the last 2 days. MENA has also learned that President Mubarak explained to the U.S. secretary of state Egypt's view on the need to expedite efforts to end the stalemate with respect to convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, in light of President Mubarak's recent meeting with the Jordanian monarch in Cairo and the president's contacts with certain Arab leaders.

During his meeting with Shultz, MENA has learned that President Mubarak stressed the need to intensify international efforts, in coordination with Arab countries, to prevent an escalation of the Gulf war, which now jeopardizes the entire Arab Gulf region.

Mubarak Sends Cable of Thanks to Reagan

NC171422 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1318 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his great pride in the role U.S. President Ronald Reagan is playing in deepening the roots of friendship between the Egyptian and American peoples, as well as in his diligent efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. This was contained in a cable of thanks which President Mubarak sent to the U.S. President today in reply to Reagan's congratulations on Mubarak's reelection to a second term in office.

The following is the text of the cable:

I have received with great thanks and gratitude your kind congratulations on my reelection as president. It pleases me to express to you my appreciation and the Egyptian

people's appreciation of the sincere feelings you expressed in your cable and our pride in the role you are playing to deepen the roots of friendship between the two peoples and intensify cooperation between the two countries in all fields, as well as in your diligent efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East in the interest of the people of the region and all peace-loving forces.

Our best heartfelt regards to you and to the friendly American people. We are proud that you stand beside us in the battle of reconstruction on the road to peace and progress.

Mubarak Sends Thank-You Cable to Gromyko

NC171515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed his eagerness to develop the relations of friendship and positive cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union in a way that achieves common interests, serves the cause of world peace, and deepens the concept of cooperation between all nations and peoples.

This was contained in a cable of thanks which President Husni Mubarak sent today to Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in reply to Gromyko's congratulations to Mubarak on his reelection for a second term.

The following is the text of Mubarak's cable: It pleases me to express to you and to your colleagues, the members of the Presidium, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the kind congratulations you sent to me on my reelection. I would like to affirm to you that we share your eagerness to develop the relations of friendship and the positive and constructive cooperation between our two countries in a way that achieves common interests, serves the cause of world peace, and deepens the concept of cooperation between all nations and people.

Our best regards to you and to the Soviet peoples and our wishes for your success in your sincere efforts to achieve further prosperity and progress and to reduce world tension.

USSR's Vorontsov Leaves Cairo for Jordan

NC160825 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, left Cairo for Jordan today at the conclusion of a visit to Egypt during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The Soviet official has stated that the aim of his current tour of the region is to consult with the countries concerned with the Middle East issue and to prepare for the convocation of an international peace conference as soon as possible.

Morocco's Filali on Meeting with Mubarak

NC151527 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, has stated that he conveyed a verbal message to President Husni Mubarak from King Hassan II during his meeting with the president today.

In a statement following the meeting, the Moroccan foreign minister said that the message deals with bilateral relations, which he described as good and solid, and the current situation in the Arab world and the African Continent. Filali added that during the meeting he was aware of a feeling of Arab fraternity and otpimism on Mubarak's part. He said that views proved to be identical with regard to the current situation in the Arab world as a whole and the Palestinian arena in particular in this period preceding the Arab summit, which will be held in Jordan in November.

Filali noted that opinions were also identical on the situation in the African Continent. He added that Egypt and Morocco are two Arab states which have interests in Africa and that it is natural to exchange views on the situation in the continent. [passage omitted]

Filali was asked whether his current visit to Egypt had any connection with the resumption of relations between the two countries. He responded that the issue had not been raised during his meeting with the president. However, he asserted that relations between Egypt and Morocco are above the level of formalities. He added: As I said before, relations between us are strong and solid and built on solidarity and our common interests as Arabs.

Touching on Morocco's role in the emergency Arab summit due to be held in Amman next month, the Moroccan foreign minister said that his country will play a role as usual and will consider all possible ways of reaching unanimous stands. The Arab world must, he added, look closely, now and in the future, at the conditions prevailing in the world. He emphasized that constructive dialogue is bound to bring about positive results.

In his statement, Filali mentioned the Polisario issue, saying that this is one of the African topics being considered by the UN General Assembly. He noted that he had explained Morocco's point of view on the desert issue to President Mubarak. He expressed hope that a peaceful and comprehensive solution would be found and accepted by all as soon as possible.

Leaves Cairo 17 Oct

NC170752 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0733 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali left Cairo for home this morning at the end of a 3-day visit. During his stay in Cairo the Moroccan minister was

received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He also held talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Reportage on Visit by Burundian Official

Arrives in Cairo

NC162235 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Etienne Sindi [name as received], member of the Burundi Military Committee for National Salvation, arrived in Cairo from Burundi this evening on a 5-day visit to Egypt. In an arrival statement, the Burundian official said he will convey a message to President Mubarak from Burundian President Pierre Buyoya dealing with bilateral relations. He added that he will also meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to discuss relations between the two countries in various fields. He was received at the airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah.

Hands Message to Mubarak

NC181146 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a written message from Burundian President Pierre Buyoya dealing with last month's changes in Burundi. The message was handed to the president today at a meeting with Major Etienne Sifda Hibura [name as received], member of the Burundian Executive Military Committee for National Salvation and President Buyoya's envoy, who arrived in Cairo 2 days ago. Present at the meeting were Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Haknira Mana [name as received], director of the Africa Department at the Burundian Foreign Ministry; and Zacharie Banyiyezako, Burundian ambassador in Cairo.

Following the meeting, the Burundian president's envoy answered reporters' questions on the status of Egyptian-Burundian relations since the changes which took place in Burundi, saying that these changes were connected with internal affairs and voicing the hope that they will contribute to strengthened ties between the Egyptian and Burundian peoples.

Meanwhile, Dr Butrus Ghali stated that the Burundian envoy had explained to President Mubarak the political and economic reasons which led to such changes. President Mubarak, Ghali said, affirmed Egypt's firm policy of non-interference with friendly countries' internal affairs, voicing the hope that bilateral relations would grow in all areas and urging that relations between the two governments be consolidated. Dr Ghali described the meeting as extremely positive, noting that a large number of Egyptian experts are now working in Burundi.

Concludes Visit 18 Oct

NC182105 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Major Etienne Sifda Hibura [name as received], member of the Burundian Executive Military Committee for National Salvation, left Cairo for Saudi Arabia this evening. During his 2-day visit, the Burundian envoy relayed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Burundian President Buyoya. The Burundian official also met with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and discussed with him ways to bolster relations between Egypt and Burundi.

'Abd al-Majid Condemns Iranian Missile Attacks

NC171138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—Egypt, represented through its president, government, and people, has strongly condemned the recent Iranian act of aggression against fraternal Kuwait. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reaffirmed President Husni Mubarak's position in a recent speech, in which he said Egypt stands by Kuwait with all its capabilities and feelings in defense of its territory, sovereignty, and people.

In a statement today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: The missile attacks on Kuwaiti ships anchoring within Kuwait's territorial waters are in violation of an Arab state's sovereignty and a breach of international law. This we strongly condemn. This new act by Iran, he noted, aggravates the situation and requires that the world community expedite the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 of last July on the Iran-Iraq war.

This unjustified war, he said, has expanded to include the Gulf waters as a whole and to threaten international shipping. He also pointed out that it is now entering a serious stage, threatening the national sovereignty of some Arab Gulf states which are not party to the conflict. In conclusion, the foreign minister renewed the appeal to Iran to refrain from the acts of aggression, which do not serve peace.

Butrus Ghali Leaves on Visit to PRC 18 Oct

NC182045 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this evening for a week-long visit to the PRC. His excellency stated that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak asked him to convey a message to PRC President Li Xiannian. Ghali said that he will hold talks with the Chinese foreign minister and a number of other leaders and officials in the PRC. The talks aim to promote Egyptian-PRC relations and to exchange views on international issues, foremost of which is the international peace conference.

Ghali added that he will make a stopover tomorrow in Singapore to meet with Singapore's foreign minister and discuss bilateral relations and issues pertaining to the Nonaligned Movement.

U.S. Energy Secretary Arrives in Cairo 14 Oct

NC141815 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington arrived in Cairo this afternoon at the head of a joint delegation of U.S. energy and oil experts for a 3-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the U.S. official will hold talks with Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. He was received at the airport by chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Stops at Cairo Airport on Way to Iraq

NC152048 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stopped at Cairo Airport for 1 and 1/2 hours this evening while on his way to Baghdad. MENA has learned that during the stopover 'Arafat made a telephone call to a senior Egyptian official. He later left Cairo on board a private Iraqi plane.

Gorbachev Call for Ship Withdrawal Criticized

NC110645 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 10 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper *Al-Akhbar* has expressed its astonishment over Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for the need to withdraw all foreign ships from the Gulf. In its editorial scheduled to appear in tomorrow's issue, *Al-Akhbar* says that despite the Soviet leader's emphasis on his country's support of all the points outlined in Security Council Resolution 598, foremost among them being an immediate cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, his call for the withdrawal of foreign ships from the Gulf gives the Iranian regime the freedom to carry out its aggressive practices and attack non-military ships of countries not involved in the war.

The paper goes on to say that although Moscow has so far shown support for the procedures adopted by the world community in this respect and considering Moscow's fear of the United States and the other Western states having a free hand in the Gulf, the Soviet Union could contribute to the efforts being exerted by the other countries to protect international navigation in the area. Concluding its editorial, the paper points out that Moscow could have sent warships or undertaken any other action as a sign of cooperation with the efforts to ensure free navigation for all countries in international waterways.

AL-SHA'B Says U.S. Troops Still in Egypt

PM140851 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Sep 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "U.S. Forces Still in Egypt"]

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed that an agreement was concluded last June between a high-ranking Egyptian military official and the NATO supreme commander to give Egypt the status of a distinguished ally.

Reliable sources also have reported that some of the U.S. forces which took part in the joint exercises with Egyptian Army units last July are still in camps near Alexandria in addition to a number of U.S. warships permanently stationed at the Red Sea base of Ra's Banas.

Libyan Opposition on Reconciliation Bid

NC160608 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 2040 GMT 15 Oct 87

[From the "Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] At the invitation of the working group charged with the task of seeking to unify the Libyan nationalist opposition factions rejecting the present repressive, tyrannical rule in our country, and as part of the ordinary meetings held during the transitional period of the proclamation of the Libyan nationalist alliance—and with the active participation of a number of nationalist Libyan personalities—the leaders of the following opposition Libyan groups have met: the Libyan Nationalist Movement, the Libyan Nationalist Struggle Movement, the Libyan Nationalist Organization, the Libyan Struggle Movement, the Libyan Committee for National Salvation, and the Libyan Democratic Party. A number of independent nationalist figures also attended the meeting, where the conferees issued the following statement:

In a spirit of sincere cooperation, the factions and forces of the Libyan nationalist opposition have made sincere and intensive efforts to attain a unification of the Libyan nationalist struggle. In response to a nationalist, democratic, and living will, and in order to realize the aspirations of our Libyan people inside and outside the homeland, the factions and forces of the Libyan nationalist opposition declare their determination to achieve unity among the democratic nationalist opposition ranks that reject the present repressive and tyrannical rule in our country, Libya. They also declare their rejection of all the practices and policies that are designed to undermine our people's cause and future.

The Libyan nationalist forces stress that Al-Qadhdhafi, who has monopolized power in Libya through a number of practices and policies that attacked all nationalist tendencies, has strayed from the principles, goals, and aspirations of our Libyan people since the first years of his monopoly of power. He has obstructed all our nationalist and pan-Arab goals and hindered our people's

political, economic, cultural, and social progress. This has affected the entire Libyan people and has had repercussions on all our friends and neighbors on the Arab and international scenes.

The Libyan nationalist democratic forces, represented by the nationalist factions and personalities attending this meeting, wish to draw the attention of the Libyan masses and their living forces to the attempts to cast aspersions and stir up the people's feelings, attempts that are continuously being made by Libyan and non-Libyan parties. The latter have become accustomed to distorting facts and feigning stances ever since serious efforts to unify the Libyan nationalist forces began. The Libyan nationalist forces declare their total rejection of the rumors concerning attempts to seek a reconciliation with Al-Qadhdhafi. They assert that these rumors have been created by suspect parties who are seeking to cast aspersions on and undermine the unity of Libyan nationalist action.

The nationalist opposition forces participating in the meeting declare that they have conclusively ascertained, from a number of reports and immutable facts, that the meeting between 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Huni and Al-Qadhdhafi was initiated by Al-Qadhdhafi himself, through the mediation and insistence of some Arab parties. Al-Huni responded to these parties on a personal basis and made it very clear to those concerned that it is not possible to bring about any democratic changes or national reforms in Libya as long as Al-Qadhdhafi remains in power.

The Libyan nationalist forces warn our people's masses inside and outside the homeland of the sentiments that some circles and persons are attempting to arouse in the ranks of the Libyan nationalist opposition. This is being done in an attempt to create a climate of despondency that will force the opposition to accept in advance the inevitability of the fait accompli that our people's masses inside and outside the homeland reject.

In this statement, the nationalist factions and forces declare their unanimous acceptance of the basic principles and general goals specified in the charter draft. These principles and goals emphasize the determination to implement a program of struggle aimed at overthrowing the present repressive and tyrannical rule in our country, Libya. They also assert their intention to preserve the unity of the nationalist ranks in order to mobilize and utilize all nationalist capabilities and energies inside and outside the homeland to implement the charter's principles and goals. These principles and goals will be binding upon all the parties that have accepted them and agreed to act in accordance with their guidance and policy, until such time when the charter draft's organizational structures and general laws are completed. We hold this charter to be a historical document to which we adhere and whose articles we will attempt to implement in letter and spirit. We will do this before and after the fall of the present repressive and tyrannical rule in our country, Libya.

The Libyan nationalist factions and forces attending this meeting assert that they will continue their efforts to invite all nationalist and democratic persons and forces to actively participate and contribute to the unity of nationalist action and lead it to the stage of struggle, under the aegis of a free nationalist will, so that they may assert their rejection of all policies of heghemony and control by any suspect party.

We also emphasize our total rejection and denunciation of any suspicious contacts with foreign parties; indeed, we warn of the consequences of being dragged into the maze of the international game.

The Libyan nationalist factions and forces condemn the fact that the fraternal Libyan and Chadian peoples have been dragged into fighting each other. We affirm our desire to maintain the historical relations between the Libyan and Chadian peoples. We call for peaceful negotiations on the Libyan-Chadian question. At the same time, we refuse to let the Libyan nationalist opposition be a tool that can be dragged into the maze of the international game or be used as a bargaining counter.

We assert our total commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of our Libyan land and to the defense of our people's destiny in a future in which the citizen's life, honor, and land are secure.

Long live our people's struggle. Glory and immortality to our martyrs.

[Signed] The factions and forces of the Libyan nationalist opposition

Libya

Events, Situation in Burkina Faso Viewed

NC161908 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Burkinabe radio has reported that Colonel Thomas Sankara was removed from power in Burkina Faso yesterday afternoon. Captain Blaise Compaore, Sankara's second in command and the man who led the new move, has declared that the revolutionary work in that country which began on 4 August 1983 will not be questioned and that there will be no retreat from the revolution's objectives and principles.

All communications with Burkina Faso have been cut off, borders have been closed, and a curfew has been imposed in the country.

Leader Opens Revolutionary Committees Session

LD162323 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today opened the 3d session of the 10th convocation of the revolutionary committees.

Leader Receives YAR Figure, President's Note

LD180925 Tripoli JANA in English 0826 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 18, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The leader of the revolution has received Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, the [YAR] minister of economy, trade and and industry.

Al-Wajih delivered a letter to the leader of the revolution from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the Yemen Arab Republic and the secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Congratulations Sent to Tunisia's Bourguiba

[Quotation marks as received]

LD161522 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumor [October] 16, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution sent his congratulations to President Habib Bourguiba on the anniversary of the eviction of French colonialists from Bizerte. It reads as follows:

"Brother President Habib Bourguiba of the Tunisian Republic "on the anniversary of the eviction of the French colonialists on the sacred Arab "Bizerte", I congratulate you and the Tunisian Arab people on this glorious anniversary and we pray for the mercy to come down on the martyrs of "Bizerte" who with their blood had written the Arabism and freedom of Tunisia under your prudent leadership and who taught France a lesson that it should not have forgotten. But the Western colonialism which is ruled and controlled by the complex of the deep-rooted historic hatred of Arabs, Orient and Islam and its prophet "Muhammad" whom they do not recognize his prophecy. [sentence as received] It seems that they are forgetting such lessons and in need to be taught those lessons whenever they forget them. I wish you the very good health and happiness.

"Your brother,

"Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi."

Algerian, Syrian Presidents Send Notes

LD190533 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The brother leader has received the ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Great Jamahiriyah, who conveyed to him a verbal message from President Chedli Bendjedid.

The brother leader of the revolution has also received the head of the Syrian Arab Brotherhood Bureau to the Great Jamahiriyah, who conveyed to him a verbal message from President Hafiz al-Asad.

Jallud Receives Algerian Seminar Delegation

LD171802 Tripoli JANA in English 1049 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 17, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday received an Algerian delegation taking part in the Arab seminar on the writing of Arab history, which was held in Tripoli and concluded last Wednesday.

Delegation Departs 18 Oct

LD182102 Tripoli JANA in English 180 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 18, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The Algerian cultural delegation left Tripoli today after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah during which they took part in the Arab symposium on the writing of Arab history, held by the Arab Culture Council in conjunction with Al-Nasir University, in the past few days on the soil of Great Jamahiriyah.

U.S. Response to Union With Algeria Viewed

Tripoli JANA in English 1035 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 17, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Under such title, the *Al-Jamahiriyah* weekly newspaper published by the revolutionary committees in Great Jamahiriyah out yesterday, replied to the U.S. attitude towards the Algerian Arab unity project through Reagan's disgust and Shultz's statements in the media describing it as "flagrant interference in Arab internal affairs".

It went on to say: "All and everyone know and realise that Algeria is an Arab state and not one of America's states. So is Libya, an Arab state and not a NATO state, and apart from that, the one and common Arab history and Arab geography."

When we decide to re-draw the Arab map, we do not consult the U.S. in that for such an act is a purely Arab internal act and a social interaction imposed by the one destiny and the one goal.

"Apart from that, the unity seeds which was planted by the Libyan-Algerian joint struggle against European revolutions—in Libya and in Algeria—has produced its fruits by the birth of the unity project which had disturbed the colonialist and imperialist circles, due to the challenge such a project represents to the current regionalist situation and due to the surpassing it makes to the deteriorating Arab situation as a result of the regionalist culture—the brainchild of the era of military and cultural colonialism of the Arab homeland at the end of the 19th. century and the beginning of the 20th. century, and is considered as a revival of hope and pride for the million sons of this torn nation".

The newspaper went on to say: "Our people which registered heroic epics on the peaks of the 'Aures' and had offered one million martyrs so that Algeria remains Arab, will not be shaken and moved an inch, by statements, to continue the struggle for Arabism and the building of the one Arabs' state that will stand proud in the face of any form of neo-colonialism".

It added: "Here in the second half, a people which offered half of its population to smash the Roman dream defeated fascism and has supported Libya's Arabism will not be deterred by threats from continuing its struggle to abolish the imaginary borders, deepening the nationalist awareness of the sons of the Arab nation and adhering to flying high the banner of the pan-Arab unity which passes the actual fact, salvages it from deteriorating and take it from defeat to victory full of hope and prosperous future".

Al-Jamahiriyah asserted that the unity deed that is being carried out between Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria is a great invincible deed on the path of Arab dignity to [words indistinct] political and geographical map, require us to be determined and root out fear from our hearts with full and firm determination on the road to unity.

It indicated that the available unity signs forecast the birth of the new unity state and its continuation despite the efforts of those full of hatred—the enemies of this nation.

The newspaper stated the stages of struggle the Arab people of Libya and Algeria had fought. Those stages had shaped the looks of the joint history of struggle. It asserted that such joint history urges us to stride with firm steps to realise unity not deterred by what the enemies reiterate. "Because they will never be more than enemies. We confidently and surely know that such an event disturbed them, scares them and makes them re-examine their calculations anew".

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Ship Fires at U.S. News Helicopter

JN161512 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1504 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] It was learned this afternoon that an Iranian warship opened machinegun fire at a helicopter hired by the U.S. NBC Television Network. The aircraft was located off Dubayy port. None of those on board was hurt.

Kuwait

Naval Facilities Not Provided to U.S.

LD191131 Kuwait KUNA in English 1027 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 19 (KUNA)—The United States has not asked for facilities for its naval forces operating in the Gulf nor is Kuwait willing to grant such facilities no matter what the circumstances may be, Kuwait's Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim said Monday.

The minister was responding to a question by the Kuwait weekly *Al-Yaqazah* on whether the U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage in the course of his recent visit to Kuwait and talks with him, had asked for facilities for naval units operating in the Gulf or had asked for military bases in Kuwait.

"He (Armitage) had not asked for and we will not allow such bases to be erected in Kuwait no matter what they may be or in any form they may take and there is no way pressure can be exerted on us from outside" to grant such facilities, Shaykh Salim affirmed.

Responding to another question on the cost of the American fleet's escorting of the Kuwaiti oil tankers, the minister said the United States has not yet furnished Kuwait with a bill for such services.

Shaykh Salim assured the weekly that the six Gulf Cooperation Council states are agreed on their general outlook toward defense of the Arabian Peninsula but differ on the mode of defense, adding what is crucial is the presence of the consensus for joint defense.

The defense minister denied reports of Iranian gunboats attacking the joint Kuwaiti-Saudi Al-Khafji port with the intent to cripple oil exports saying such reports are malicious and are designed to provoke tension.

In this connection, the minister refuted rumours that Kuwait had given concessions in return for Iran's implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire and peace talks between the two warring neighbours.

The Kuwaiti minister assured the weekly magazine that when peace is restored to the Gulf all countries of the region will contribute to the economic and social reconstruction of the two Muslim neighbours.

Certainly everybody will contribute toward the reconstruction and rehabilitation of what the war which entered the eighth year last month has destroyed in the economic and social sectors of the two countries, he asserted.

Shaykh Salim defended the presence of Western and Soviet naval forces in the Gulf as being a prime factor in the search for a way out of the long-dragging war of attrition between Iraq and Iran.

These naval forces are here to protect sources of oil on which they entirely depend on, he said, adding their presence is a prime factor in working for an end to the war now or in the near future.

Elaborating further on this point, the minister said the reflagging of the Kuwait tankers was of joint interest (to Kuwait and oil consuming nations). The Europeans and others have vested interests in protection of the oil sources and sea lanes for this vital commodity.

Iran, together with other oil producing countries in the Gulf, also benefits from the presence of foreign fleets in the Gulf, Shaykh Salim elaborated.

The Kuwait defense minister said his country was forced into buying weapons because of the situation in the region pointing out that Kuwait is stockpiling arms as a policy of defense rather than one of assault. These are circumstances imposed on us, he affirmed.

Reaction to 16 Oct Iran Attack on Tanker

'Sea Isle City' Damage Noted

LD171113 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1041 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (KUNA)—The oil tanker *Sea Isle City* this morning entered the repair berth at Al-Shuwaykh port for inspection and to repair the damage inflicted on it by the Iranian attack yesterday.

A responsible source told KUNA that after preliminary inspection of the tanker, which flies the U.S. flag, it was discovered that the main control room was damaged during the attack, in addition to damage to the pumping rooms and the crew's living quarters. This damage led to 18 casualties, 2 of which were severely wounded.

The same source pointed out that the attack caused damage to the electronic equipment and radar but that the vessel's engines did not suffer any damage.

The source pointed out that the competent authorities are still inspecting the equipment and parts of the tanker in order to assess its total damage.

It is noteworthy that of the 18 crewmen who were injured, 2 were treated on the tanker since their injuries were superficial, 6 were treated at Al-Shu'aybah Clinic, and 10 were referred to Al-Idan Hospital, including the vessel's U.S. captain and British chief engineer who are still listed as in intensive care.

UN Head Told of Attack

LD170922 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait today informed Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, of Iran's aggression against the U.S.-flagged *Sea Isle City* oil tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent representative to the United Nations, said in a note to Perez de Cuellar that Kuwait reserves the right to call together the UN Security Council to hold a session to discuss Iran's repeated and unjustified aggression against Kuwaiti territory.

The message added: Following the 15 October message sent to you by Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and after receiving instructions from my government, I would like to acquaint you with the following:

On the morning of Friday, 16 October 1987, Iran launched another missile against Kuwait 3 km south of the oil loading terminal at Al-Ahmadi harbor. The missile struck a U.S.-registered oil tanker anchored in Kuwaiti territorial waters. The captain of this tanker and 17 of its crew were injured, some of them very seriously, as a result of this missile.

While we convey to you the aforementioned information, we would like to inform you that Kuwait reserves the right to call on the UN Security Council to hold a session and discuss the repeated and unjustified Iranian aggression against Kuwaiti territory.

Abu al-Hasan asked that such a message be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

UN Council Envoys Informed

LD170825 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry this morning summoned the ambassadors of the UN Security Council permanent members accredited to Kuwait. A responsible source at the ministry has told KUNA that Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin conferred with the ambassadors and briefed them on the Iranian aggression against the oil tanker in Kuwait's territorial waters that took place on 15 and 16 October. The source said Mr al-Shahin conveyed a verbal memorandum concerning all vital details to the ambassadors. The message also reiterated that Kuwait is about to take whatever steps are necessary to safeguard its security, safety, and rights.

Arab Ambassadors Briefed

LD171334 Kuwait KUNA in English 1157 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi met in his office Saturday ambassadors and representatives of Arab countries accredited to Kuwait.

An official ministry souce said that the minister briefed the envoys on latest developments in the Gulf region and on the latest Iranian aggression against Kuwait.

The source added that Al-'Usaymi affirmed that Iran's aggression on Kuwait posed as a serious escalation that adds greater importance to the extraordinary Arab summit conference scheduled for Nov 8 in Amman.

The Arab leaders will have to adopt a unified stance in face of Tehran's insistence to continue warring and to expand the conflict which entails serious dangers to the Arab national security, Al-'Usaymi elaborated.

The source quoted the ambassadors as expressing sympathy and solidarity with sisterly Kuwait in face of such challenges.

Minister al-'Usaymi had met earlier today with visiting West German State Minister for Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaefer and the accompanying delegation.

An authoritative source said that the discussions covered bilateral relations tackled the Iraq-Iran war and its impact on the Gulf's littoral states, the source said, noting that "both parties' points of view were identical on the necessity of halting that destructive war, implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and asking Iran to accept international mediations and appeals to end this war."

The source said that a review was made of issues of mutual concern including ties between the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Community.

Iranian Attacks Protested

LD172107 Kuwait KUNA in English 1834 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—The Iranian charge d'affairs Mohammad Hussein Fouroghi was summoned by the Foreign Ministry and Kuwait's protest against the Iranian aggressive actions against Kuwait was conveyed to him, a Foreign Ministry official source said tonight.

The source said Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin met with Fouroghi and conveyed to him Kuwait's protest for the missile attacks on two foreign oil tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters last Thursday and Friday.

Al-Shahin stressed that the attacks represent a violation to the sovereignty and security of Kuwait and a breach of international laws and an international escalation for the tense situation in the region.

The source added that Al-Shahin has stressed that the new Iranian aggression has come within the framework of the Iranian insistence to pursue an aggressive policy against countries that are not party to the war, and continuation to the aggressive actions when Iran fired a number of missiles on Kuwait at random last September.

Al-Shahin stressed that Iran is fully responsible for committing those violations and stressed that Kuwait reserves all rights resulting from that aggression.

Cabinet To Meet 18 Oct

LD171237 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1056 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, says Kuwait's plan for approaching the UN Security Council and the United Nations to confront Iranian aggression against Kuwait will be decided upon at tomorrow's cabinet meeting.

In response to a press question on whether there would be an emergency GCC meeting to discuss regional developments, Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah added: A GCC meeting has been set up for next Saturday, a joint meeting for ministers of foreign affairs and ministers of finance. All issues of concern to the GCC countries will be discussed.

Today, Shaykh al-Ahmad al-Sabah received Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the minister of information; and Mr Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, the minister of finance and economy.

Call for New Action Program

LD181450 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti cabinet has called for the adoption of an effective and earnest attitude toward the recent aggressive practices and encroachments by Iran, which (? seems to persist) in continuing them for the purpose of escalating the situation and increasing regional tension.

Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said following the cabinet meeting today that it had discussed all aspects of Iran's recent aggression against Kuwait when it fired a missile at the *Sea Isle City* oil tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

He added that the cabinet heard an explanation from Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the minister of state for foreign affairs, concerning diplomatic steps and measures taken in accordance with Friday's energency cabinet meeting.

Minister al-'Usaymi said that he informed the cabinet of the results of the meetings between the GCC and Arab ambassadors and members of the Security Council arranged to convey to them details of Iran's aggression and its results, the extremely grave danger it presents, and the extremely grave dimensions that extend beyond the security of Kuwait and the other Arab Gulf states to threaten the security of the Arab homeland and international peace.

He explained that this calls for the adoption of a new action program for dealing in an earnest and effective way with Iran's recent aggressive practices and encroachments, activities that Iran persists in continuing in order to escalate the situation and increase regional tension.

Diplomatic Activity Reviewed

LD181642 Kuwait KUNA in English 1354 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA)—Kuwait Sunday called on the international community to take stiffer actions in face of the recent Iranian hostilities in the Arabian Gulf that escalated tension in the Area.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Al-Rashid said "following a cabinet meeting" that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi briefed the cabinet on meetings with ambassadors of the GCC, Arab and the five Security Council permanent members to Kuwait to fill them in on the Iranian attack on the U.S. flagged tanker *Sea Isle City* in Kuwaiti territorial waters last Friday and its dangerous impact on world peace and security.

He noted that, in this respect, Health Minister Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi acquainted the Council with conditions of *Sea Isle City*'s 18 crew members wounded in the attack.

Al-Rashid said that the cabinet opened its meeting by reviewing the message from Turkish President Kenan Evren to H.H. the amir on issues of mutual concern.

The ministers, he added, also looked into the message to H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah from Tunisian Premier and Interior Minister Zine el Abedine Ben Ali on the recent Iranian attack on Kuwait.

The minister said that the Council of Ministers listened to a comprehensive report by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir on the outcome of his tour which included a number of Arab and GCC countries to attend the GCC Ministerial Council and an Arab League meeting.

Shaykh al-Sabah then visited Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, France and Britain and finally New York where he took part in the 42nd regular session of the U.N. General Assembly.

He added that the cabinet thanked the deputy premier and foreign minister for his great efforts exerted during the tour which affirmed Kuwait's firm stances calling for peace and security in the region.

Al-Rashid said that Al-'Usaymi briefed the Council on discussions with his West German counterpart Helmut Schaefer who visited the country with in tour in Arab Gulf states on latest developments in the Gulf region.

Minister al-Rashid said that the cabinet also listened to a report by Interior Minister Shaykh Nawuf al-Ahmed al-Jabir on the outcome of the sixth GCC interior ministers meeting which was held in Abu Dhabi last week and was acquainted with its recommendations which affirmed the natural union between the Council's states.

Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa also reported to the Council results of his visit to the Soviet Union last week which targeted boosting bilateral economic cooperation. An agreement was also signed to establish a Kuwaiti-Soviet joint economic committee to study and follow up projects of both countries, Al-Rashid noted.

Shaykh 'Ali briefed the Council on meetings with ranking Soviet officials during his visit which included First Deputy Premeir Geydar Aliyev and Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev. Bilateral relations, in addition to the situation in the Arabian Gulf and efforts to realise peace in the region were tackled during the exchanges.

Al-Rashid said that Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad elaborated on the outcome of his visit to France, in which he attended a seminar on Gulf security in Bordeaux. He also gave the Council a report on his meetings with French officials on means of reinforcing bilateral relations in the cultural, technical and informational spheres, in addition to the ongoing Iran-Iraq war.

The Council also examined a number of domestic issues and adopted the proper decisions toward them.

Official Says Oil Exports 'Not Affected'

LD191244 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0914 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Oct (KUNA) — A high-ranking official in Kuwait's governmental company for oil transport stressed that exports of Kuwaiti crude oil, liquified gas, and petrochemical products have not been affected by the troubled situation in the Arab Gulf region or by the regrettable incidents in which two foreign oil tankers were subjected to an Iranian missile attack in Kuwaiti territorial waters last Thursday and Friday.

'Abd al-Fattah al-Badr, chairman of the board of the Kuwaiti oil tanker company, said in two separate statements to *Al-Anba'* and *Al-Watan* newspapers published here today that "Kuwait is still capable of exporting all of its oil production quota despite the troubled situation in the Arab Gulf area." Al-Badr told *Al-Anba'* newspaper that "export operations will continue in the future just as in the past without any reduction in production or its complementary operations, thanks to the wise leadership of his highness the amir and the directives of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister; as well as due to efforts of the Kuwaiti oil company under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi, the minister of oil."

However, Al-Badr warned that "oil transportation operations from the Gulf area have been directly affected due to the regrettable events the region is facing."

He pointed out in his statement to *Al-Watan* newspaper that "there is full cooperation between the six Arab GCC states in supporting each other, in the event one member state is subjected to incidents that would halt its oil exports, by means of a full refund of the tanker's load."

As for Kuwait's request to have some of its oil tankers registered and reflagged in the PRC, Al-Badr explained that "Kuwait has not yet received any answer from China concerning acceptance or refusal, since they do not have the capacity to register and reflag ships, the situation being new to them."

Al-Badr pointed out to *Al-Anba'* newspaper that "tankers' insurance costs, including Kuwaiti tankers, have generally risen. However, the company has not insured against war risks from the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980 until the present, except in a very few cases."

He explained that the Kuwaiti oil tanker company "is not ready to pay the heavy costs requested by insurance companies, which take advantage of the time and the situation to double their profits."

He added that "The company is trying to reassure other companies that the region is still normal and that Kuwaiti tankers are sailing without being insured for the risks of war."

Klibi Affirms Arab League's Support

LD171233 Kuwait KUNA in English 1109 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, Oct 17 (KUNA)—Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi Saturday affirmed the solidarity of the Arab countries and the readiness of the League's secretariat general to support Kuwait's efforts for peace, security and protection of its sovereignty.

Klibi, in a cable to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah today added that the hostile aggression on the U.S.-flagged tanker in the Kuwaiti territorial waters should urge the Security Council to undertake effective measures to stop the Iranian war.

He said peace is the only way to protect stability of the Gulf region as well as a major condition to protect world peace from Iran's continuous insistence on the war.

Press, Radio Comment on 'Sea Isle City' Attack

'Declaration of War'

LD171136 Kuwait KUNA in English 1018 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—In a chorus of condemnation, Kuwaiti newspapers Saturday chided Iran for its missile attack on a U.S.-flagged ship in Kuwaiti territorial waters Friday and agreed that the aggression was tantamount to declaration of war on Kuwait.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm, in an editorial comment, regretted that Iran had ignored Kuwait's self-restraint and its repeated attempts to back any peace effort in the region.

The paper which has long held the world's big powers responsible for igniting the Gulf war in the first place hinted that the missile attack on Kuwait was yet another "act" in the "big drama" in the region with a more thrilling "mise-en-scene."

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm, however, singled out China for direct blame, indicating that Iran was using Chinese-made missiles in the attack on Kuwait and commercial ships in the Gulf.

Stressing that the situation in the Gulf is "very serious" the paper called for collective Arab action in support of Kuwait "because the volatile situation in the Gulf cannot be treated with mere outpour of passions or shouts of condemnation."

Al-Siyasah daily, meanwhile, urged the big powers, chiefly the Soviet Union, to act immediately and put an end to the bloodshed in the Gulf, saying that "they are committing a grave mistake if they think that the Gulf war is an issue to bargain over."

The paper in a front-page editorial said that if the Soviet Union thinks it may obtain some trade advantages by wooing Tehran it is totally mistaken because it will lose the friendship of the Arab world.

The daily said "If the Soviet, by refusing to sign sanctions against Iran and coordinating with other countries in this respect, think that they can bargain on other unresolved issues with the Americans, it must be said that their point of view is totally wrong."

Warning that the repercussions will be very difficult to contain when and if Iran achieves its terrorist goals, the paper underlined that "destruction will affect not only the states of this region but also the whole world, and the Soviets will be the first to suffer."

Calling on the United States and the Soviets to bring the seven year old war to an end, the newspaper concluded that the two superpowers "are now concerned more than anyone else about putting an end to this war which has intensified because of their arms and their cooperation with the side that has so far rejected peace offers."

With a banner of "Welcome to Battles," another Kuwaiti daily said that Iran, by lobbing missiles into Kuwaiti teritorial waters in the past two days, has in effect declared war on Kuwait which is no party to the Gulf conflict.

Al-Anba', in an editorial comment, said the missile attacks have transformed the Iran-Iraq war into a pan-Arab "fateful question," adding that it has become all the more futile "to talk to Iran's craze with the voice of reason."

According to the paper, the missile attacks on Kuwait have left no doubt that the Gulf war is no longer confined to belligerent Iran and Iraq and that the conflict has turned into "a very hot international issue."

It also held the world community equally responsible for halting the Gulf war mainly by implementing Security Council Resolution 598 which has been "frozen" by Iran and "some international parties involved in the conspiratorial design against the region."

If Iran continued to reject the resolution which ordered a ceasefire, the only effective way to deal with Tehran, according to *Al-Anba'*, is for the big powers to use "a decisive, preventive deterrent approach."

This, the paper suggested, could be either by bombarding Iran's missile batteries or any other action those powers believe would cripple Iran's military might.

In the case of Kuwait, the paper said self-reliance is the key for defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Stressing that Kuwait can be strong enough with the cohesion between the leadership and internal front, the paper said "Welcome to battles ... the battles of honor, bravery and sacrifice in defense of the beloved homeland."

Al-Qabas newspaper viewed the missile attack on Kuwait as an attempt by Iran to drive the region to a new height of tension so that Tehran can continue to dodge international pressure to implement a ceasefire ordered by the Security Council.

The Iranian attacks on Kuwait, according to the paper, were in response to the announcement that U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar was to launch a new peace mission with Iran and Iraq.

As such, the Arab group and the United Nations have now to work to contain the Iranian bellicose attitude and "produce practical means of an international aspect to force Tehran to accept" the cease fire call, the paper suggested.

Without such action Iran will continue to spew chaos and terrorism .. and the Gulf as well as the whole Arab world will continue to suffer for a long period to come, the paper concluded.

The English-language daily *Kuwait Times* saw the Iranian missile attacks not only as "criminal provocations" against Kuwait but, more significantly, as "direct challenge" to the United States.

The paper indicated that the U.S. is now expected to come up with a clear-cut response to the Friday attack on the U.S.-flagged tanker at least to win credit to its commitment to safeguard commercial shipping in the Gulf.

Referring to Washington's argument that the attack on U.S.-owned, Liberian-registered tanker *Sungari* in Kuwaiti territorial waters Thursday [15 October] was no aggression on the U.S. because the tanker was not escorted by U.S. warships and was not attacked in international waters, the paper said:

"The rationalisations that helped the U.S. officials to absolve themselves of their defence responsibility in earlier attacks may not apply here,"—in the Friday attack on the U.S.-flagged tanker.

The paper said it had few days ago hinted to some obvious snags in the U.S. naval vigilance in the Gulf. "The new attacks only confirm our fears," it added.

Apparently referring to Washington's thus far bland reaction to the attacks, the paper said ... "One gets the impression that the Americans are still falling short of their target in coping with the task of surveillance and keeping the attackers at bay."

Superpowers Said To Favor War

LD180909 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper Sunday said foreign fleets in the Gulf were there not by any means to halt the Iran-Iraq war but just to secure the flow of oil supplies to the big powers.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm daily, which has long blamed the start and continuation of the war on superpower calculations, indicated that the big powers do not even want the war to come to an end because they are reaping billions of dollars in profit from the carnage.

The paper, meanwhile, accused Iran of setting the stage for the two superpowers and other Western countries to intervene in the region.

Instead of trying to bring hostilities to an end, the foreign powers, which according to the paper found a gold mine in the region's conflict, were encouraging Iran to toughen its position and buy more arms so that the big powers add a handful of billions of dollars to their assets.

Al-Ra'y al-'Amm hoped that Iran would realize before it gets too late that those are mere merchants of war and that peoples of the region are the victims of their deadly trade.

Iran Playing 'Great Satan'

LD180959 Kuwait KUNA in English 0904 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper Sunday warned Iran that attacks on Kuwait will backfire and fail to shake Kuwait's resolve to be solely responsible for the defense of its own sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Al-Watan daily, in an editorial, faulted Iran for trying to export its brand of revolution to its neighbors through guns and are [words indistinct] calling that such an attempt in Saudi Arabia last July resulted only in tens of Iranian deaths.

The most serious aspect of the Iranian missile attacks on Kuwait last Thursday and Friday, according to the paper, was the fact that Iran was desperately trying to embroil the whole region, particularly Kuwait, in the war in prelude for internationalization of the conflict.

Reiterating Kuwait's firm determination not to grant military facilities to foreign powers on its soil, *Al-Watan* said Tehran's rulers would be mistaken to believe that Kuwait might eventually concede its own defense to a foreign force.

The paper added that Iran which long claimed to be fighting imperialism is itself playing "the great satan" embracing the very imperialistic principle of claiming the right to meddle into the internal affairs of other countries.

"Their game is too obvious... They think differently and that is where their problem lies," *Al-Watan* concluded.

Paper on 'Threat' of War

JN171613 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 16 Oct 87 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Yesterday, the Iraq-Iran war witnessed two contradictory but closely related developments. An Iranian missile struck a tanker in Kuwait's territorial waters. At the same time, the Security Council renewed its directives to the UN secretary general to resume his mission and bring about a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran as a step toward resolving the conflict in light of and on the basis of the provisions of Resolution 598. This is the same resolution Kuwait has asked the international community to quickly implement. This is a fair demand because what took place against Kuwait yesterday carried the signs of the danger of expanding the war, as had been cautioned by our country and all GCC member states. This danger has been posed with every passing day without putting an end to the fighting, currently in its 8th year, and without seizing the international attention it deserves.

Therefore, the call made by Kuwait yesterday should be received with due attention by the international community and the international bodies headed by the United Nations, and particularly by the Security Council in its capacity as the apparatus in charge of preserving world peace and security. This call is also addressed to the five large powers, particularly the two superpowers.

It is noted that the firing of the missile at the tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters coincided with the Iranian oil minister's arrival in Moscow, which is also being visited by the Kuwaiti oil minister. This serious incident also came on the eve of the U.S. secretary of state's tour, which will also take him to Moscow where the Iraq-Iran war is sure to be on the agenda. However, this alone is not enough unless words turn into deeds and a serious and responsible effort begins to end this ill-omened war whose continuation poses a threat to world peace and security.

Attack Termed 'Provocative'

LD171416 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] As part of its chain of aggressions against Kuwait, Iran yesterday carried out a missile attack against a U.S.-flagged oil tanker, the *Sea Isle City*, inside Kuwaiti territorial waters. This attack injured the vessel's captain and 17 crew members, some very seriously, while also causing material damage. Steps have been taken to treat the wounded and contain the incident's repercussions. [passage omitted]

This aggression is one in a series of provocative and serious acts of aggression carried out by Iran against Kuwait. It was unprovoked and unjustified, just like previous Iranian aggressions against Kuwait, which is a neutral state. This aggression, like previous ones, was condemned and denounced by our country and our numerous friends around the world. This serious Iranian escalation comes at a time when the international community, represented by the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general, continues efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and the return of peace and security to this region.

The world has found in the Security Council resolution a historic opportunity to stop the Iraq-Iran war. The new Iranian aggression against the *Sea Isle City* took place the same day the Security Council tasked the UN secretary general anew to continue his efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598. This mission, as is known, primarily concerns Iran, particularly following Iraq's immediate acceptance of the resolution and its readiness to implement it if Iran does so as well.

Implementing the Security Council resolution on ending the war would be the best thing for the people of the region since it would halt the needless bloodshed of the Iraq-Iran war and give Iran and Iraq a chance to stop exhausting their people and material, as has now been happening for more than 8 years. Kuwait has been and still is trying to achieve this, along with the other fraternal and friendly regional and international countries. Kuwait's adoption of such a stance stems from its belief in peace and its conviction that there is nothing to gain in a war between two neighboring countries. Such a stance has been urged by Islamic countries in their various meetings, particularly during the ICO's fifth summit in Kuwait.

Kuwait opposes war and favors peace. It opposes aggression. It supports independence and freedom for all countries and peoples, and it favors international cooperation based on common interests and noninterference in other countries' internal affairs. We have asserted this because of our support for the interests of other countries and peoples and our rejection of unnecessary bloodshed. This is the choice of people everywhere. Man's long history has shown that those who do not restrain themselves and transgress the interests of other countries and peoples bring the greatest harm on themselves. Man's long history has also shown that all people who have been the subject of aggression have found ways to resist that aggression, supported by other countries and peoples who reject aggression. Kuwait is a small country but a large one when it come to ideals, principles, leadership,

and the will of its people. It is also a large country considering how many friends it has everywhere, in the East and West as well as North and South. Kuwait is large in its insistence on peace and the rejection of aggression.

Those who do not restrain themselves will find in Kuwait only postures that serve the interests of all the nations and peoples; they will find that everyone in Kuwait will do his utmost to face the aggression, and that none will accept it. Those who do not restrain themselves will find nothing in Kuwait but a determination based on the ideals of justice, goodness, and good Islamic values to safeguard Muslim blood and property, promote their reputation, and bring about peace to consolidate their strength and progress. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'War Games' Maneuvers in Gulf Noted

LD190948 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 19 (KUNA)—U.S. warships operating in the Arabian Gulf conducted live-ammunition war games in the past three days including simulated helicopter attacks on speedboats, according to the UAE leading news paper *Al-Ittihad* Monday.

The paper quoted the master of an oil tanker as saying he himself saw the exercises as his ship cruised past the maneuvers area to the north of the Bay of Oman.

The unidentified tanker captain claimed he saw U.S. helicopter gunships open fire on speeding boats similar to those used by Iran in attacks on commercial shipping in the Gulf.

Shipping sources told the paper, meanwhile, that Iran closely watched the exercises which, the sources said, made the Iranian Navy warn planes against approaching its ships two days ago.

The maneuvers were ordered after one of four Iranian speedboats escaped a U.S. Iranian helicopter attack [as received] near the Iranian island of Farsi earlier in the month, according to the sources.

But other sources believed the war exercises were related to the options the American Administration was considering for retaliation for an Iranian missile attack last Friday on the U.S.-flagged oil tanker *Sea Isle City* in Kuwaiti territorial waters last Friday.

Army Conducts Live-Ammunition War Games

LD171921 Kuwait KUNA in English 1801 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti military units conducted war games with live munitions in the "Edera" Desert Saturday, according to an Army statement.

Light weapons, armoury and armoured personnel carriers were used in the maneuvers, attended by senior Army officers.

Oil Minister Terms USSR Visit 'Successful'

LD171752 Kuwait KUNA in English 1700 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 17 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah described here Saturday [17 October] his visit to the Soviet Union as most successful and fruitful as it had been intended to broaden and consolidate economic and petroleum cooperation between the two countries.

"The visit was extremely successful in terms of its achievements," the minister told KUNA upon returning here from Moscow this evening.

Shaykh 'Ali, who spent five days in the Soviet Union, said the two sides has signed an agreement for setting up a joint standing commission for economic cooperation.

The minister pointed out that the two sides also had determined a list of joint ventures to be executed by Kuwait and the Soviet Union in a wide range of fields, but primarily economic and petroleum schemes.

But he declined to go into the details of the agreed ventures. "We do not wish to speak about these schemes before the two countries sign agreements for their founding," the oil minister noted.

During his official visit, Shaykh 'Ali had meetings with a number of senior Soviet political and economic officials on cementing bilateral links, and developments in the Arabian Gulf region, particularly Iranian threats to freedom of navigation.

Last Wednesday, Shaykh 'Ali and Chairman of Soviet International Commission for Economic and Commercial Relations, Konstantin Katushev signed the agreement on the setting up of the standing commission for economic cooperation, assigned to follow up progress of cooperative programs between Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

Also in February of last year, Shaykh 'Ali had signed an agreement, during an official visit to Moscow, providing for the establishment of joint ventures in Kuwait, the Soviet Union or any mutually agreed third country.

Under the agreement, the two countries were also to exchange petroleum derivatives.

West German Official Departs 18 Oct

LD182040 Kuwait KUNA in English 1708 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA)—West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaefer left here tonight for Qatar at the second leg of a Gulf tour that will take him to five countries of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council.

He told KUNA in a pre-departure statement that he negotiated with officials here on the situation in the Gulf region.

Both parties focussed on the importance of prevailing peace in the Gulf and affirmed joint conviction on the necessity of finding a peaceful settlement to pending problems, he added.

Schaefer affirmed that his government makes use of its good ties with the Gulf countries, including Iraq and Iran, to bolster the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission.

Asked on reasons for the disparity in the European countries' stands toward the Gulf war, the West German official said that their stands are identical on all other issues.

He attributed disparity in interests, if existed, to the fact that certain states send arms to the warring parties, he underlined.

Schaefer noted "but there is joint agreement and common interest among the Western European nations namely to work for achieving peace in the Gulf region."

He denied [words indistinct] within the German Government over the Iraq-Iran war, adding "we employ our good relations with both warring sides to bolster peace efforts and implement the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the war."

Schaefer will proceed from Qatar to Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman before returning home.

He was seen off by Director of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department Ahmad 'Abd al-Wahid al-'Ayyub and the West German ambassador to Kuwait.

Iran Arms Office in FRG Denied

LD191004 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 19 (KUNA)—West German State Minister for Foreign Affairs Helmut Schaefer affirmed that his country will absolutely refuse to open an Iranian arms procurement office in West Germany.

In an exclusive interview with Kuwaiti daily *Al-Anba'*, published here today, the West German official expressed surprise on what has been published on the transfer of the Iranian arms purchase office from London to Germany.

He also denied his country's knowledge of the London-based Iranian office, saying that West Germany did not know of its existence until it was announced.

He added that West Germany also did not know of the Israeli arms purchase office in Paris, which was said to be transferred to Germany.

The German minister, who left the country yesterday to Qatar on the second leg of his Arab Gulf tour, affirmed that West Germany refuses to arm belligerent countries.

He noted in that respect that previous experiences of arms embargo have failed, because those who want weapons can easily get them through various means.

Meanwhile, Schaefer stressed his country's strong support to the efforts of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to implement the Security Council Resolution 598 on a ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war.

He noted that there is no way to impose this resolution without the solidarity of the Security Council's five permanent members.

On the German hostages in Lebanon, the German official denied that his country has paid ransom to the abductors, but acknowledged that his government has contacted the Syrians and Iranians for the release of the hostages.

He noted that the West German Government did not promise or agree on the release of Ali Hamadi in exchange for the German hostages' freedom.

Hamadi is in German prisons for his alleged involvement of hijacking a TWA airliner in 1985.

Shipping Official on Arms Smuggling Charges

LD191238 Kuwait KUNA in English 1151 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 19 (KUNA)—The Kuwait-based United Arab Shipping Company [UASC] Monday lashed at the foreign media for spreading false reports which it said were part of shady information generated by "some foreign circles" against the Arab Gulf region and its vital economic institutions.

An official source of the United Shipping Company was commenting on reports spread by some foreign news agencies alleging that Italian customs officials have found 'smuggled' arms in secret hiding places on board a

ship owned by the United Arab Shipping Company. The ship mentioned in these reports is a Qatar-registered breakbulk vessel *Fath al-Khayr*.

The UASC official source explained that the vessel *Fath al-Khayr* was on a legal and regular saling from the European ports to the Arab Gulf ports and was tansiting through the Italian port of Savona with cargo on board including a military shipment for the Ministry of Defense of an Arab Gulf state which is not part of the belligerency taking place now between Iraq and Iran.

The UASC source added that the loading of the shipment was done with confirmation with all normal shipping documents and with knowledge and approval of importing government.

The source attributed the holding of the ship and shipment to a misunderstanding on part of the Italian customs authorities, and added that the company in cooperation with the Defense Ministry of importing state is clearing out the matter towards releasing the vessel and the military cargo today.

The source affirmed UASC faith in Arab Gulf press and its deep feeling of responsibility which makes it refrain from dramatising such incident especially within the current sensitive circumstances of the region.

Oman

Iranian Speedboat Captives Repatriated

LD171852 Kuwait KUNA in English 1652 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Geneva, Oct 17 (KUNA)—Four Iranians who were captured in the Arabian Gulf on October 8 when U.S. helicopters sunk their speedboats were Saturday repatriated via Oman under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, an ICRC spokesman said.

The four, plus the bodies of two of their compatriots who had been killed in the incident, had been handed over by U.S. military personnel to Omani officials at Seeb airport, the Red Cross added.

They in turn had turned them over to Iranian representatives, for their return home in an Iranian aircraft, he went on.

The day before the repatriation a Red Cross delegate and a doctor had visited the Iranian prisoners on a U.S. warship.

The repatriation followed the same pattern as one last month for 26 Iranians, captured when U.S. forces sunk their vessel, *Iran Ajr*, which Washington said had been laying mines in international waters.

In the October 8 incident U.S. helicopters sunk one speedboat and captured two others, after they had reported being fired upon by the Iranians.

Qatar

9 Foreign Companies Blacklisted by Boycott

JN161538 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, Oct 16 (QNA)—The Doha office of the Arab boycott of Israel has blacklisted nine foreign companies on the grounds of committing violations of the Arab boycott of Israel rules.

Shaykh Fahd ibn Ahmad ibn Mubarak Al Thani, the head of the Doha office said in a statement to *Qatar News Agency* that the decision affected the following companies and subsidiaries:

—U.S. Technology for Communications International and its subsidiaries in England and Spain.

—Liberian timber and plywood operation, including the head company British Yona and British Agent Chuschill and Sim.

—The Egypt branch of Club Mediterranee.

—The Netherlands subsidiary of U.S. Sara Lee Corporation.

—The Belgium subsidiary of U.S. Aldrich Chemical.

—Renault's Anchore and Alliance cars which are manufactured by blacklisted American Motors Corp.

—The Dutch and W. German subsidiaries of U.S. Jenneco Inc.

—The U.S. Exnord International and all its subsidiaries.

Meanwhile, three foreign companies, Greek Elias Kammenos Avtokinton, Dutch Bombay Company Private Ltd and Japanese C. Itoh Co. Ltd. have been lifted from the office's blacklist.

Saudi Arabia

Government Condemns Iran Attacks on Kuwait

LD171646 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Oct (SPA)—The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its strong condemnation of the recurring Iranian attacks against oil tankers in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

An official source made a statement to SPA today, saying: While expressing its deep regret and condemnation of the blatant and repeated Iranian attacks in the

brotherly State of Kuwait's territorial waters, with continued Iranian insistence on disrupting free navigation in the Arabian Gulf waters, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia asks the international community to put an urgent stop to these encroachments that are increasing regional tension.

At the end of his statement the source added: The Kingdom also affirms its total solidarity with the brotherly State of Kuwait in its legitimate right to defend its territory and territorial waters.

King Fahd Receives George Shultz 17 Oct

LD171248 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received at his office at Al-Salam Palace this afternoon George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state. The audience was attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning; Richard Murphy, the assistant U.S. secretary of state; Edward Walker, the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in the Kingdom; and members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary of state.

George Shultz arrived in Jeddah earlier today on a brief visit to the Kingdom within the framework of his current tour of the Middle East. He was welcomed at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Ambassador Tawfiq 'Alamdar, the Foreign Ministry's chief of protocol; Salim Sunbul, the director of the Foreign Ministry's office in Jeddah; Edward Walker, the U.S. charge d'affaires; [name indistinct], the U.S. consul general in Jeddah; and a number of senior officials.

Shultz Departs 17 Oct

LD171620 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1608 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 Oct (SPA)—George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, departed Jeddah this evening at the end of a brief visit in which he met with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. He was seen off at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Departs Riyadh for U.S.

LD161619 Kuwait KUNA in English 1431 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 16 (KUNA)—Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, Friday departed Riyadh for the U.S. on an official visit in response to an invitation from the U.S. Vice-President George Bush.

He was seen off by Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister, Prince Salman ibn "bd al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh region, as well as a number of senior officials.

Riyadh on Visit

LD182241 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] His Royah Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, today starts an official visit to the United States during which he will meet the U.S. President and a number of senior U.S. officials

The visit by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the United States has a special and distinguished importance, not only because the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is characterized by its clarity and its couragous and sensible dealing with issues of the international community, but also because this visit rests upon a strong background of firm stands that distinguish the policy of the Kingdom and its ways of tackling surrounding events.

It is common knowledge that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proceeds from the reality of its thoughtful awareness of events, whether in the surrounding area or in the international arena. It knows how to deal with developments and variables of these events in a spirit of full awareness and true understanding of the nature of the age, its problems, and their repercussions in the world of today, in which relations between states are characterized by a spirit of mutual interest.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deals with the age, regardless of time and place, with ethics dictated by its faith that makes it refrain from, in its relations, trivial questions and base utterances, even with those who tried to harm it out of hatred because it has succeeded and they have failed. The Kingdom was able to contain their hatred by its pride and loftiness. It considers the sanctity of duty and the responsibility of working for the prestige and pride of the Arab and Islamic nation above its own feelings, however much this may hurt. This is the secret of the greatness of the Saudi stand and the very motive behind the international community's respect for that stand.

For all of these considerations, the visit of His highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the United States acquires a distinguished importance. Coming at this very time as developments intensify in the Arabian Gulf region in particular, and at more than one region in the international arena in general, the matter requires the international community—and particularly its active member states—to listen to the Saudi voice expressing the will of right and justice.

United Arab Emirates

Dailies Question Purpose of Shultz Tour

LD181418 Kuwait KUNA in English 1257 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 18 (KUNA)—Two United Arab Emirates newspapers questioned in their editorials Sunday the motives behind the visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East despite the American Administration's awareness of the region's views towards the Palestinian issue and the situation in the Gulf.

Al-Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "Shultz heard from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia his country's as well those of other GCC states views on the dangers of escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, the responsibility of defending the regional waters and freedom of navigation in the international water passage."

The newspaper called on the superpowers to preserve freedom of navigation "if they really seek to secure international peace and security...not by issuing statements of threats to retaliate but by adopting responsible moves to end the war."

The newspaper said "matters need today firm and serious stands and urgent moves to solve the roots and not only the consequences of problems."

Al-Wahdah newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "It would be wrong if the Arab countries who are preparing to hold their emergency summit in Amman bet on a serious American and Soviet role to solve their issues."

"The Soviets as well as the Americans are preoccupied with dividing the cake among themselves even if it calls for reconsidering the diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv and opening the door wide before the Soviet immigration to Israel" the newspaper added.

It went on to say "The Americans as well are preoccupied with rendering their military presence in the region on official status."

The newspaper concluded "If the two superpowers were serious in restoring peace to the Middle East, the Palestinian problem would have been solved decades ago and the Iraq-Iran war would have never [words indistinct] continued in this dangerous manner."

The tour of Shultz and his Soviet counterpart to the region comes within the framework of "serious competition to arrange their stands according to their strategic interests," it said.

Saddam Speaks To Ba'th Party Branch on War
JN190623 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1905 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn during a meeting "with the secretary and members of the Al-Ma'mun Branch Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party" in Baghdad; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted including indistinct portions] Comrade Mu'ayyad mentioned the methods of the Iranian enemy and his firing of rockets on Baghdad and the martyrdom of Iraqi children in a primary school. They are losing by such behavior. They are not only losing before world opinion, but, more importantly, they are losing in the eyes of history. After 2,000 years, 3,000 years, 1,000 years, people will read the record of the fighting between the two sides. History will record that the rulers of Tehran cooperated with the rulers of Tel Aviv. History will record that plots were hatched against Iraq by some states [words indistinct].

History will record that they killed children. [Word indistinct] it is a clear mark which they cannot cover up. They have killed children. History will also record that they have killed prisoners. History will record many shameful acts which they committed. History will also record your glorious actions.

How many of them we will kill, that is not an objective. [We will kill] only as much as is necessary to ward off their threat to the country and to safeguard our people's dignity. You and they are aware that we can retaliate for their missile with the equivalent of 1,000 [missiles] [words indistinct]. However, we act in accordance with what furthers our lofty objectives and not in accordance with any other framework. Previously they hit Baghdad and before that Basra. They are still hitting and we are patient. We have more patience than they expect. Patient people always know what price has to be paid when they express their wrath.

They have added a shameful act to a record full of shameful acts. I believe that Almighty God wants to expose them. Look at their behavior. Perhaps many Muslims have not realized what they are. What kind of religion do they follow? But when they saw them draw out knives from their pockets during the pilgrimage [sentence as heard]. The Iraqi himself, did he not fight them for 7 years and is now fighting them for the 8th year? I believe that the Iraqi who fought them for 7 years and is now fighting them for the 8th year has become more convinced by their actions that he must fight them for an indefinite period with greater determination. No, I do not say indefinitely, but I say to the end—to defend his sanctity and honor and to protect the people.

The Saudi was grabbed and slaughtered with a knife in cold blood for no reason except that the Saudi is an Arab and Mecca is in Saudi Arabia and not elsewhere. Just imagine what he would do to the Iraqi if grabbed by him. We know what will happen and we have experience with the enemy. However, the world and the Arab nation needed to know this. The Almighty meant this to happen to expose them. The annals of Al-Qadisiyah [the battle] will state that the Iranians were allied with Israel, the Iranians shed blood in Mecca, and the Iranian rulers killed children and prisoners of war and fought against all the Arabs. Otherwise, what is the meaning of attacking Kuwait every now and then?

Perhaps nobody knew at the beginning of the war how it started and how the Iranian aggression started. This does not include the tendentious few who did not want to know and do not want to know up to this day. However, some did not know the sequence of events and Iranian hostility due to their geographic location or lack of attention. Now no one is unaware of Iranian aggressiveness. It is an aggressive act to hit a ship belonging to no one, I mean, not belonging to Iraq or Kuwait. It is a mere ship in the Gulf hit in reaction to our aircraft's strikes against their ships which supply them with the means of aggression. Anyone in the world [words indistinct] such mentality. The fact that they hit a Japanese tanker which was approaching them to carry their oil makes this evident.

Psychologically and historically, Iraq needed to expose Iran's aggressiveness on a world scale and not only on a regional scale. Everyone in the region now says: They are so hostile to other countries at a time when Iraq is standing in their faces like a great wall whenever they try to attack it. How would Iran's aggressiveness and evil against the Arabs, Muslims, and others be if Iraq did not act as a wall?

I am fully convinced in conscience and mind that this is the price of Al-Qadisiyah. It is the price of Al-Qadisiyah that the Iranians kill children and prisoners of war, commit aggression against Arabs and foreign countries, and perpetrate all evils. This in turn demonstrates how great Iraq is in its men, women, land, and sanctitites—all of which stood up in the face of this yellow plague coming from Qom and Tehran. Such comparisons certainly take place in history.

The day will come when people will ask about the Arab countries' stands. They will say this and that betrayed the nation and suspported the Iranians, this helped Iraq, that only looked on, another was hit for his pan-Arab stand, and so forth. Everyone will take what is due him. We hoped that all the Arabs would be well thought of. However, if some had betrayed the nation, history would continue to remind generations, say up to the 40th generation, that their ancestors had betrayed Iraq. Let history then do so. This applies to the behavior of traitors and this is a price which a traitor must pay so he will be a lesson for others. [Passage omitted on Saddam Husayn asking audience to look after party and people]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Communique No 2,877

JN161728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,877 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued their combat activities, inflicting new loses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. The brave helicopter gunships carried out 41 combat missions today, through which they inflicted further losses on the Khomeyniites and their personnel, equipment, and weapons. They returned safely to base protected by God.

2. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah fired at enemy units before them and achieved the following: the killing or wounding of 10 enemy personnel; the destruction of a gun and the killing of its crew; the destruction of an infantry position and an observation post; and the blowing up of two ammunition dumps.

3. Eight infantry positions were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Two infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Three enemy soldiers were killed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. A heavy machinegun and an infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

7. Three enemy scoundrels were killed, a bulldozer was destroyed, two gun emplacements and an observation post were damaged or destroyed, a vehicle was burned, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

8. Three enemy boats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port. They were confronted and forced to flee.

9. The criminal enemy shelled the city of Basra and the village of Sirwan with long-range artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 October 1987

Spokesman Denies Plane Downed

JN170723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0707 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about downing an Iraqi fighter plane in the Arabian Gulf yesterday. In a statement to INA this morning, the Iraqi spokesman said that it seems that lies fabricated by the Iranian rulers and their media have become the best-selling commodity. Those charlatans are completely unable to depart from these exposed methods.

Residential Area Raids Denied

JN171158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1149 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied that Iraqi aircraft today raided any Iranian residential areas. In a statement to INA at noon today, the Iraqi spokesman said the Iraqi aircraft today were only targetted at Iranian military concentrations along the battlefront.

Communique No 2,878

JN171748 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,878 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing to inflict additional losses on the criminal enemy through their combat activities last night and today. The following is a roundup of their activities:

1. Our Air Force carried out a series of violent raids today on enemy troop concentrations, weapons, and equipment, inflicting heavy losses. At 1200 [0900 GMT] today our planes attacked selected targets in the Emam Hasan oil fields. After carrying out 111 combat missions, all of our planes returned safely to their bases except one which fell over enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for preserving the life of its pilot.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships dealt effective blows to enemy positions, troop concentrations, and weapons, inflicting important losses on them in 61 combat missions. Our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked an enemy position opposite them and inflicted the following losses: three people killed; one armored personnel carrier burned and destroyed; two vehicles destroyed and a third one burned; and two infantry positions and one observation post destroyed, their occupants killed.

4. One enemy soldier was killed and two infantry positions were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces.

5. Two enemy soldiers were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. One enemy SPG-9 gun, four infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed and one armored rescue vehicle was damaged in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Two heavy machine guns were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

8. Our units on the VII Army Corps Front destroyed two enemy medium machineguns and killed their crews, destroyed one infantry position, and blew up one infantry position and one ammunition dump.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 October 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN171918 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1907 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 17 October]

[Text] To further destroy the lifeline of the criminal Iranian regime, which is using its oil revenues to commit aggression against our country, our heroic Air Force launched a successful air raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 1900 [1600 GMT] today, scoring an accurate, effective hit. After carrying out their duty, our planes returned safely to base in the homeland, God be praised.

[Dated] 17 October 1987

Iranian Claims 'Ridiculed'

JN180723 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—Iraq has ridiculed Iranian claims that four Iraqi aircraft were shot down yesterday and has also affirmed that the Iranians resort to such lies every time they receive a harsh blow to minimize their losses and divert attention from them.

A military spokesman told INA today that of approximately 100 Iraqi aircraft which simultaneously raided Iranian concentrations in the northern sector and their command posts, killing large numbers of their Guards yesterday, only one was hit. The spokesman added that Iraq had announced this in its military communique yesterday. The spokesman said: Not a single aircraft of those which raided a maritime target and the Emam Hasan oil field was hit.

Communique No 2,879

JN181749 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,879 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant Armed Forces continued to inflict further losses on the aggressor Iranian regime. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector pounded the enemy forces opposite them and achieved the following: three vehicles either burned or destroyed, one bulldozer destroyed and another burned, one heavy machinegun and one antiaircraft gun destroyed, and two ammunition dumps blown up.

2. Two infantry positions, two observation posts, and one ammunition dump were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. One enemy soldier was killed in the Special I Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. One enemy soldier was killed, five infantry positions were destroyed, three vehicles were burned, and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Two infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector killed two scoundrels and burned or destroyed four enemy vehicles.

6. Two enemy gunboats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port. Our forces engaged them and forced them to flee.

7. A number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with our forward units and were safely transferred to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 October 1987

Reportage on Shultz Visit, Meetings 17-19 Oct

Meets With Shamir, Peres

TA180710 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Oct 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Secretary of State George Shultz has proposed new ideas for breaking the Middle East peace logjam. Shultz conducted two rounds of "shuttle talks" between Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres over the weekend, and informed source said that there was "a serious discussion of practical ideas" for advancing the peace process.

Shultz, however, was said not to be mediating between Shamir and Peres over their diverging views on the international conference.

Last night, Shultz and Shamir agreed that working committees from the U.S. and Israel would meet throughout today. The committees will apparently try to put in writing any understanding reached last night between Shamir and Shultz, and will present the results of their talks when the two hold their final talks tonight. [passage omitted]

Shultz met separately last night with Shamir and Peres for over an hour and a half each, some of the ministers' aides were present. On Friday Shultz met both Peres and Shamir privately and with officials. The private meetings were devoted to the peace process while the other sessions dealt mainly with the issue of Soviet Jewry.

Shultz's meeting with Peres ended hastily after the Sabbath siren was heard at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Aides to both Peres and Shamir were very open with journalists on the substance of the talks concerning Soviet Jewry, and extremely reticent on anything dealing with the peace process.

Shamir and Peres differed in their presentation of the Soviet Jewry issue. Shamir asked the secretary to urge the Soviets to allow Jews to emigrate on the basis of "repatriation" and not only of family unification, while Peres argued that the main goal is a substantial increase in the number of Jews allowed to emigrate. Both Peres and Shamir insisted on the importance of direct flights to Israel for Jews leaving the Soviet Union.

Shultz reacted positively to Shamir's proposal. He said that he is "constantly thinking about the problem, which we have treated as a humanitarian problem until now, working on lists of especially vulnerable people." But, Shultz said , he would now consider how to present the problem in Moscow "in its wider aspects" as presented by Shamir.

Shultz said that he would base his remarks in Moscow on a reported remark by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that "whoever wants to emigrate can emigrate."

Peres told Shultz that 70 years after the Soviet revolution, Jews there are in a "desperate situation." He said that the matter of Soviet Jews is more important to Israel that the establishment of diplomatic relations with Moscow. He also stressed the importance of Soviet aliyah for Israel's demography, connecting the two main themes of Shultz's visit here by saying that "geography is given to change." [passage omitted]

Shamir said that although Israel does not take a stand on the freedom of choice issue, Jews should first come to Israel, and we are convinced that most will not want to leave. Those that will, he said, will be free to go through the "regular channels" and to apply for an immigration visa from here. [passage omitted]

Offers Soviets Marginal Role

TA190706 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] Secretary of State Shultz has suggested rearranging the blocks of the international conference to make it clear that the Soviet Union's role will in principle be marginal: one of providing aegis, but not of active involvement. The United States is prepared to provide the necessary guarantees for this formula, but at the same time, Secretary Shultz explained that it would be impossible to engage in a process that would exclude the Soviets completely, adding that whether we like it or not, the Soviet Jewry issue also depends on the relations between Jerusalem and Moscow.

The message Shultz wanted to deliver to his interlocutors was that the U.S. Administration believes that the time is now more propitious than ever and the political opportunity should not be allowed to slip. This opportunity is founded on Soviet-U.S. rapprochement and the growing understanding among the regional countries that the next phase of the political process should focus on interim arrangements for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The United States will demand that the Soviet Union accept this understanding.

Although the talks have been completely blacked out, it seems that from his point of view, George Shultz made his most significant statements in public appearances. Let us give one quote from a speech last night: Surely there are risks in the peace process, but equally surely there are risks in missing the opportunity. Those who are reluctant to explore new ideas, those who resist the old ones, have an obligation to offer something new. And another quote from the secretary's remarks: We cannot wait for ideal conditions for negotiations to arise. These

are somewhat unusual remarks for a man whose style is otherwise known for its neutrality, and they were definitely intended for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's ears.

We still do not know what response the prime minister gave to the proposals raised before him. At the end of their latest meeting last night, at around midnight, it was reported only that now the sides' views are absolutely clear and there is no need for further clarifications. One could perhaps conjecture that the prime minister and the U.S. secretary of state did not reach a full understanding. Incidentally, Knesset Member Moshe Arens also participated in last night's meeting, along with aides and secretaries.

[Jerusalem *The Jerusalem Post* in English on 19 October on pages 1 and 2 carries a report by Menahem Shalev on Shultz' 18 October press conference in Jerusalem, adding that "sources in the Prime Minister's Office claimed that Shultz's visit has finally shown Foreign Minister Peres that 'the international conference won't work' and that the sides are now exploring other 'devices' for achieving direct negotiations."]

Shultz is proceeding to Cairo today, and he intends to examine his views and sound them out with King Husayn in London and with his Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze in Moscow.

Palestinians Boycott Shultz

TA190909 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Elaine Ruth Fletcher]

[Excerpts] Eight prominent Palestinians boycotted a planned meeting here with Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday—and Shultz later said the Palestinians had "missed something by not taking part in an invitation to dialogue." [passage omitted]

The Palestinian boycott of the Shultz meeting represented the first ever refusal of Arab leaders from the territories to meet here with U.S. officials, observers said. The boycott was organized by the PLO in response to Washington's planned closure of the PLO information office in Washington.

Widespread strikes in the territories were staged to support the boycott. All East Jerusalem newspapers except *Al-Nahar* yesterday advised the Palestinians not to meet with Shultz. And *Al-Fajr* suggested that anyone who did meet with Shultz could be considered a "suspicious character."

Some Palestinians suggested they disagreed with the boycott strategy, but weren't willing to break ranks with the group.

"It's not correct to say people were intimidated. But I wasn't going to be the person on my own to dissent from what the general Palestinian position seemed to be," said Gaza doctor Hatim Abu Ghazalah, who declared that the PLO was the only viable leadership in the territories.

Deposed Gaza mayor Rashad Al-Shawwa was also quoted in the Arabic press as saying that he didn't want to create a split in Palestinian ranks by attending the meeting.

In addition to Al-Shawwa and Abu Ghazalah, others reportedly invited included Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kanan; Ramallah businessman Suhayl Jedoun; Hebron businessman Kamal Hassuna; Bay Sahur Mayor Hanna al-Atrash; Hebron businessman Fay'z Al-Qawasimi; and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists' Association.

Shamir Aide Comments on Talks

TA181630 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Could you say now, at the end of George Shultz' 3-day visit in Israel, that you learned some new things from the U.S. secretary of state?

[Ben-Aharon] We did not learn any new things. After all, his purpose was not to come here to tell us anything new. Rather, his purpose was to recheck our positions and those of the other parties involved and see whether the peace process can be moved another step forward.

[Shilon] And what is the conclusion?

[Ben-Aharon] The conclusion is that we are still holding discussions. There is goodwill on our part, of course. The secretary of state has once again revealed himself as a man of extraordinary patience and a loyal friend who wants to promote the peace process in a way that is acceptable to all of us in Israel, meaning through direct negotiations.

[Savir] As you see it, are the interim arrangements which may precede negotiations or an international conference, if one is held, feasible?

[Ben-Aharon] We have been discussing various issues with the United States. The peace process can be carried out only through negotiations with the incumbent parties. At the same time, the United States is also interested in the so-called quality of life. They are interested in the creation of conditions and an atmosphere in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza which would ease the process

and would also enable Palestinian Arabs who are neither members nor sympathizers of the PLO to take part in the process because they are a vital factor in the entire process.

[Shilon] In response to a previous question, you said that during the talks Shultz has revealed himself as a man of extraordinary patience. When one person has extraordinary patience this means that the other side is somewhat rigid in its position.

[Ben-Aharon] No, that is not what I meant. I meant to say that he is a man who knows how to listen, and many politicians are not gifted with such a quality. He also has patience in terms of his willingness to thoroughly examine any proposal or idea, even if they do not seem to appeal to him, and react to the point.

[Savir] Some have described Shultz' shuttle mission also as a shuttle mission between the Prime Minister's Office and the foreign minister's office.

[Ben-Aharon] That is not true.

[Shilon] Is there full coordination between the two offices?

[Ben-Aharon] What does full coordination mean?

[Shilon] You are sighing.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know what full coordination is. I know that the differences of opinion between the two parties forming the coalition are well-known. Of course there is friction occasionally, but as long as both sides see eye-to-eye on the question of direct negotiations—and I hope this is the case in these present talks—I think there will be no problem with coordination.

[Savir] You talk about direct negotiations. Do you think we have partners for direct negotiations?

[Ben-Aharon] It is the assessment of the Americans—and they are our interlocutors for the time being—that such partners exist. Checking into this is exactly the mission the secretary of state set out on in this trip.

[Shilon] At the beginning of this interview you as much as said that the secretary of state actually had not revealed anything new to you. Did the prime minister disclose any new ideas to the secretary of state, in view of your statement that the latter listened very attentively?

[Ben-Aharon] We explored various ideas concerning the possibility of moving this process forward. It is hard to talk about anything new because negotiations are technical matters, and how innovative can one be in terms of the technicalities of negotiations? Innovations can be introduced, however, regarding the context and circumstances in which direct negotiations could be held. Opinions which could be described as innovative were exchanged.

[Shilon] Ben-Aharon, was a sense of urgency felt in the talks in view of the fact that the United States is on the verge of an election year?

[Ben-Aharon] No, on the contrary. The Americans present a completely different picture. They say that in view of the fact that the current President is completing his second term in power, he is free of the constraints of an election campaign and wants to devote the rest of his term to issues he has always wanted to promote, first and foremost nuclear disarmament and an understanding with the Soviet Union, and then try to solve some of the regional problems, as they call them, including the Middle East conflict.

[Shilon] Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you very much.

Contacts With Iran, PRC Arms Role Revealed

JN191050 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Oct 87 pp 1, 23

[Text] Geneva—Western diplomatic sources have told *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* that Ahmad Khomeyni, son of [Ayatollah] Khomeyni, arrived in occupied Palestine the night before last aboard Israeli El Al flight 816 from Zurich. The sources pointed out that they followed up this visit through contacts with Western circles in Tel Aviv. These sources were cited as saying that Khomeyni's son was received at Lod Airport by Shim'on Peres, the enemy foreign minister; Yitzhaq Rabin, war minister; and Yosi Beilin, the Israeli foreign Ministry political director general; and David Kimche, former director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The latter two have visited Tehran recently.

The Western sources added that two Iranian generals are accompanying Khomeyni's son on his current visit to occupied Palestine. The senior Iranian guests are staying at the King David Hotel in occupied Jerusalem.

Citing circles in Tel Aviv, the Western sources said enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will arrange for a meeting between Khomeyni's son and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in occupied Jerusalem. This meeting may be held in Prime Minister Shamir's office or in Foreign Minister Shimon's Peres' residence to discuss the U.S.-Iranian relations which have deteriorated recently.

It is not yet known whether Shultz will respond to the mediation of both Shamir and Peres to meet with Ahmad Khomeyni. The sources added that the Iranian delegation's visit to occupied Palestine will last 3 days and that it will leave for Tehran Sunday evening.

In another development, the sources said that 39 families of Iranian Jews emigrated from Iran to occupied Palestine via Vienna during recent months. These families stayed in Beersheba and immigrated to the United States last week after acquiring entry visas to the United States from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Since the start of the Jewish emigration from Iran to occupied Palestine in the early 1950's, this is the first time Iranian Jews have immigrated to Israel. Citing Jewish Agency circles, these sources said that they are very displeased with this step and that since the shah of Iran was overthrown and Khomeyni and his group assumed power in Iran, 16,832 Iranian Jews emigrated from Iran, 6,011 of whom arrived in occupied Palestine. There are still more than 28,000 Jews in Iran.

Western military sources told *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* that Israel recently allowed the PRC to supply the Iranian Army with sophisticated Israeli weapons which the military and aviation industries had sold to the PRC several months ago. These sources added that these weapons include "Hoptsa" [name as published] long-range field artillery, field artillery firing guide computers, Soviet T-55 and T-54 tank spare parts, and electronic jamming equipment.

The sources added that Israel is about to sign with the PRC a huge heavy weapons deal for the Iranian Army. This deal may include Israeli Kfir fighter bombers.

Security sources reported that Israel had earlier supplied the Iranian Army with large quantities of weapons and hardware via the PRC.

Soviet Stance on Peace Conference Praised

TA131702 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Oct 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Soviet Policy Confronts Israeli Blackmail"]

[Text] Once again the Soviet Union, in an unambiguous manner not lacking in courage, clarity, and candor, affirmed its principled and firm positions on the two issues of Palestinian presence in an international peace conference on the Middle East and restoration of Soviet-Israeli relations.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper *Al-Ittihad* the day before yesterday, a senior Soviet official refuted recent remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the effect that Moscow is ready to establish an interests section in Israel, and that Moscow has gone back on its conditions regarding the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. The Soviet official asserted that Peres' remarks were mere allegations by which Peres is trying to sell illusions to the average Israeli to boost his upcoming election campaign and achieve victory over his "tough" foe, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who along with Peres is playing a game of tightrope that has been exposed and discredited.

This noble Soviet position is undoubtedly a reflection of basic Palestinian principles which Israeli leaders have not been able to harm or subjugate despite all their efforts. Israel tried through blackmail to link Soviet participation in the international peace conference on the Middle East with the restoration of relations with Israel to what they were prior to 1967.

Established Soviet policy toward Palestinian and Arab rights has never been subject to the bargaining or blackmail that Tel Aviv's leaders have always tried to practice. When the Soviet Union affirms the durability of its principled positions toward the Arab causes and the Palestinian cause, it also affirms that its basic principles are a strategy stemming from the Soviet conviction of the righteousness of the Palestinian and Arab causes.

We appreciate and respect the clear Soviet policy toward Palestinian and Arab rights. We hope the upcoming Amman summit will be able to formulate a clear and specific Arab perspective on the issue of convening an international peace conference in order to consolidate the Soviet stance and the positions of the international community, which has often affirmed the righteousness of the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinian people to attain their legitimate rights.

Large Terrorist Network Uncovered in Gaza

TA152026 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1905 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a large terrorist network which had been active in the Gaza Strip in recent months. Nearly 50 local residents were detained on suspicion of belonging to the Islamic Jihad organization. Last week's clash between terrorists and the security forces led investigators to a large cache of arms in the (Saja'iyah) quarter of Gaza, where many suspects were picked up. Our military correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that several attacks and murders that took place in the Gaza Strip and on the coastal strip in recent months are being attributed to the suspects.

Disturbances Continue

TA181516 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 87 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The wave of unrest in the territories continued yesterday. Large military and Border Police forces were positioned at the centers of tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to prevent the disturbances from deteriorating.

Four residents of Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip were wounded yesterday morning from shots fired by IDF soldiers when they did not heed orders to stop by soldiers at the roadblock on the Khan Yunus road. All four were taken to the Al-Safa'ah hospital in Gaza, where it was reported that their lives were not in danger.

Disturbances also continued on Saturday in the Gaza Strip, but to a much lesser extent. Yesterday the Islamic University reopened and students there waved banners opposing the visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to Israel. Security forces in the Strip detained members of the Islamic Jihad; several dozen people have been detained so far.

There was a commercial strike yesterday in most West Bank towns to protest last week's events, in which several residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were killed or wounded, and to protest the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region. In East Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Al-Birah there was a complete commercial strike, while in Nabulus and Bethlehem the strike was partial.

In several places in the West Bank stonethrowing incidents, the burning of tires, and the setting up of roadblocks continued at the end of last week. Several people suspected of participating in the disturbances and of incitement were detained.

The four wounded yesterday in the Strip from shots fired by IDF soldiers are Rif'at Mahmud Kuraz, 23, a male nurse at the Al-Nasir hospital; his brother Mahir Mahmud Kuraz, 20; 'Abd al-'Adi Sarsur, 42; and Sa'id Hasan Abu Hamda, 31. The four were traveling to their homes in Dayr al-Balah. When they reached an IDF roadblock on the Khan Yunus road, the soldiers ordered them to halt. When they did not stop the soldiers fired into the air, according to standing orders, and when the vehicle still did not stop the soldiers directed fire toward it. Large IDF forces were rushed to the site and immediately began an investigation. The driver claimed that it was raining and he did not hear the soldiers' orders to stop.

The *Ha'aretz* correspondent points out that this is the third incident in the past 2 weeks in which residents of the Gaza Strip have been shot. In the previous two incidents seven people were killed.

Military police opened an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the killing of three residents of the Strip from shots fired by IDF soldiers on 1 October.

Among those killed was a terrorist who escaped from Gaza prison, Musbah 'Asiri, and his body has still not been handed over for burial.

'Asiri's family claims he was not killed immediately but seriously wounded, and that only after he was tortured did security forces murder him. IDF sources said in reply that the soldiers at the roadblock acted according to instructions and that the family's charges are baseless. [passage omitted]

A large-scale commercial strike broke out in Gaza after pamphlets signed by "nationalist institutions" (a nickname for bodies identified with the PLO) calling on the merchants to strike were distributed in the towns.

Students at the Abu Dis vocational college yesterday demonstrated near the campus, hurled stones at soldiers who were called to the spot, and had to be dispersed with tear gas. A similar incident took place at Hebron University, and there were violent demonstrations in the casbah in Nabulus and in the adjacent Balatah refugee camp. Arab sources in Nabulus said that in the Balatah demonstration a 15-year-old boy, Nasir al-Din al-Atsi, was wounded in the leg by shots fired by soldiers. The IDF is checking into the circumstances surrounding his injury.

[Tel Aviv *Hatzofe* in Hebrew on 18 October on page 1 and 2 carries an unattributed report on the recent trouble in the territories which adds: "The curfew, which was lifted on Friday night on Al-Dahayshah on the Jerusalem-Hebron road, was reimposed on Saturday night for an indefinite period."]

Cabinet Views Situation

TA190944 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 87 p 2

[Text] The public has a greater sense of security after measures taken lately by the police and the Israel Defence Forces, and the General Security Service, Prime Minister Shamir said at the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday.

Shamir spoke after briefings by Defence Minister Rabin and senior IDF officers, Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, and police Inspection-General David Kraus, and the head of the GSS [General Security Service]. The briefings and the questions put by ministers were classified, and no details were officially released to reporters.

However, it is understood that considerable time was devoted to the clash on the Temple Mount last week and to the murder the weekend before of Yig'al Shahaf in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Rabin was flanked by Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron and by the officers in charge of the Northern, Central and Southern Commands. The OCS [Officers Commanding] of Central and Southern Command gave details of the role played by Moslem fundamentalist groups in the recent serious unrest in the Old City and in the Gaza Strip.

Shamir, summing up the briefings, noted the large number of public events staged in Jerusalem and elsewhere during the fortnight since the previous Cabinet session, and the measures taken by the police to protect the crowds and maintain order. He also noted that many thousands of holidaymakers in Galilee were able to spend their vacations undisturbed, thanks to the special precautions taken along the Lebanese border.

The Jerusalem Post understands that while one minister mentioned the need to rediscuss the option of the death penalty for murders by terrorists, his point was not taken

up by anyone else. On this matter, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein reminded reporters that "the issue would come up for discussion in an appropriate forum once a ground-work study had been carried out."

Shamir also said that the status quo on the Temple Mount with respect to prayers by Jews would not be changed, and that worshippers would be prohibited from entering the site, individually as well as in groups.

Public Survey Reveals 'Hawkish' Social Trends

TA150854 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Oct 87 p 9

[First part of a two-part commentary by Eliyah Salpeter: "The Mirror Reflects a Hawkish Image"]

[Text] Most Israelis are characterized by hawkish and chauvinist views and elements of impatience, alongside basic support for humanitarian and democratic principles. This was revealed in a comprehensive public survey conducted by Dr Mina Tzemah, the head of the Dahaf Research Institute, in conjunction with Eliyahu Hasin, for the American Jewish Committee.

The main subjects under investigation were the relations and ties between the Israelis and U.S. Jewry, but the replies to the questions on aliyah and emigration from Israel, ethical values, and the Arab-Israeli conflict provided an in-depth picture of the character and traits of the average Israeli.

The study revealed that 45 percent of the young people do not rule out emigration from Israel; 40 percent have positive views about gush emunim, and only 23 percent feel positively about "peace now"; 70 percent feel that the Jews' right to Eretz Yisra'el is more justified than that of the Arabs'; 49 percent believe that the Arabs can never be trusted to make true peace with Israel; 53 percent are of the opinion that Jews who oppose the idea of the State of Israel should not be given freedom of speech.

Most of those who had what are termed "liberal" opinions can be regarded as either the "half-full" of "half-empty" glass: Some 60 percent say that the state must regard its Jewish and Arab citizens equally; 57 percent feel (after the Lebanon war) that military power must be used only for defensive purposes; 54 percent are opposed to pacts with countries which violate human rights; 61 percent are of the opinion that the Jewish values entail economic sacrifices for the poor; 69 percent do not believe that the people of Israel are "the chosen people."

The section on Jewish awareness shows that 90 percent of those questioned attach importance to the fact that they are Jewish. Among those, the importance is in direct relation to the depth of the religious belief and in inverse relation to the level of education—more Jews of eastern origin and less Ashkenazim and least of all second generation Israelis. The Israeli feels more sense of belonging to the Jewish people ("like an extended family") than to the Israeli society at a 64 to 57 percent ratio.

From a correlation of the answers to self-determination, election results, and the numbers of students in public and private schools, the survey estimates that the Israeli public is divided as follows: Approximately 20 percent are religious (5 percent orthodox and 15 percent religious); approximately 30 percent "traditional"; and 47 percent secular. Some 77 percent, however, fast on Yom Kippur (including 58 percent of those who define themselves as secular). Some 49 percent said that they would react negatively to a friend marrying a non-Jew without the spouse converting to Judaism.

Regarding the picture in the future, the survey states that the younger and more educated people are less "religious" than the aged and those less educated. The movement of "return to religion" (which has been widely publicized) must however, be taken into account on the one hand, as must the continuous (but less publicized) trend of detachment from religion, and the large percentage of religious new immigrants and the small pecentage of religious people who leave Israel. Of the religious sector, 73 percent admit that their religious views fill an important function in their political decisons, whereas only 24 percent of the secular population is thus influenced.

Aliyah as a positive value, and emigration from Israel as a negative one, were basic trends in the Zionist State of Israel. The survey reveals that in this field there is considerable and growing erosion. Only 55 percent of those questioned difined leaving the country in order to settle in another country as "bad." (That was how the question was formulated.) In a poll conducted in 1983, 70 percent of those questioned were against emigration! Forty percent said that it is easy for them to understand and accept that most American Jews never think of making aliyah. Along with this, the Israelis still feel the Zionist spirit: 60 percent said that when an Israeli meets an American Jew, he must urge the American Jew to make aliyah

The opposition to emigration from Israel was weakest among the younger population: In the 18 to 22 age group, only 45 percent expressed criticism, as opposed to the 65 and above age group (65 percent against). Those with higher education were less critical of emigration (48 percent) than were those of a lower level of education (58 percent).

The number of people who said that they had actually thought of leaving the country was surprising. Among people of army service age (18 to 22), the rate was 22 percent and among those after army service (23 to 30), it was even higher—26 percent, which means that over

one-quarter of the members of this critical age group considered emigration! There are no significant differences in this category between Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

One-third of those surveyed said that they had relatives and/or friends who had emigrated to the United States. This is a significant figure, as those who have left serve as an encouraging factor for the emigration of friends and relatives who have remained behind. The survey does show that the tendency to leave the country is far higher among those who are in contact with people who have already emigrated (over 25 percent). Among those who have no connection with emigrants, the rate is 16 percent.

All in all, almost 20 percent, which is one of every five Israelis, has thought of leaving the country in recent years!

Reportage on Visit by USSR's Vorontsov

Arrives in Amman 16 Oct

JN161759 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Amman at noon today on a 2-day visit to Jordan. During the visit he will meet with a number of high-ranking officials and hold talks with them on issues related to the Middle East and various other international issues of mutual interest.

Vorontsov was welcomed at Amman Civil Airport by Dr Sami Jawdah, minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Nabih al-Nimr, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; a number of high-ranking officials of the ministry; and the Soviet ambassador in Amman and embassy staff.

Vorontsov is accompanied by a delegation comprising Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration; (Ivan Kontishuv), chief aide to the first deputy foreign minister [title as heard]; Robert Turdiyev, deputy chief of the Regional Issues and Problems Department of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration; and Sergey Bukin, chief of the Regional Problems Section of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration.

Confers With Prince Hasan

JN161554 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, today received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, which lasted approximately 3 hours, they exchanged views on various problems in the Middle East, including the Iraq-Iran dispute, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and Afghanistan.

Prince Hasan explained Jordan's position on each of these problems in light of international and regional trends, stressing the importance of formulating a unified Arab stand as a sound policy to help resolve these problems in favor of the region's nations and world peace. His highness also explained in detail His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, showing the various stages of these efforts and their outcome.

Crown Prince Hasan was fully briefed by Yuliy Vorontsov on the Soviet Union's strong desire to help achieve a peaceful settlement of the various disputes in the region. Vorontsov also expressed his government's appreciation for his majesty the king's efforts as well as his thanks to Crown Prince Hasan for his clarity and confidence.

The talks were attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, and Army Chief Staff Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

Leaves Amman for Damascus

JN171205 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him left Amman for Damascus today after a short visit to Jordan. During the visit he met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

Vorontsov expressed his pleasure with his visit to Jordan which came within the framework of his tour of the region and described his meeting with Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and with the prime minister as an excellent opportunity to exchange views on various issues of mutual concern. He also said he explained the Soviet Union's stand on these issues. He added that he will convey to the Soviet leadership the Jordanian viewpoint concerning the Middle East question, especially on convening an international conference for peace.

Vorontsov was seen off at Amman airport by Dr Sami Jawdah, minister of state for parliamentary affairs; the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Al-Rifa'i Leaves for Morocco With Message

JN181150 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Amman for Fes today carrying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, monarch of Morocco, inviting him to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference which will be held in Amman on 8 November.

Following his visit to Morocco, Al-Rifa'i will leave for London to join His Majesty King Husayn in his talks wih British officials. He was seen off by the deputy prime minister, a number of ministers, and the Moroccan ambassador in Amman.

Al-Hindawi Returns From Conveying Invitations

JN151910 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Oct 1987

[Text] Amman—Dhuqan al-Hindawi, His Majesty King Husayn's envoy and minister of education, returned to Amman this evening after conveying written messages from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency Ahmad al-Mirghani, Sudanese State Council chairman; His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic; His Excellency Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti; His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president;

and His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, including invitations extended to them to attend the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November.

Al-Hindawi said that all the presidents to whom he conveyed the invitations from His Majesty King Husayn reiterated that they will participate in the summit and paid tribute to the continuing efforts being exerted by His Majesty King Husayn to bolster Arab solidarity and close the Arab nation's ranks so that a strong base of joint Arab action can be created, as this is necessary to confront the fateful dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation.

He added that the Arab leaders also expressed their deep appreciation of his majesty's untiring endeavors to enhance Arab coordination efforts and clear the Arab atmosphere.

Al-Hindawi was received at the airport by senior officials of the Ministry of Education and the Sudanese and YAR ambassadors.

GDR Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN181240 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—Reiner Neumann, director of the Near East and Middle East Department at the GDR Ministry for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Amman this morning on a 4-day visit to Jordan. In a statement to a Jordanian news agency correspondent, he said his talks with Jordanian officials will deal with bolstering bilateral relations and joint cooperation between Jordan and the GDR, as well as with Middle East issues.

British Military Official, Delegation Arrive

JN181957 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] This evening General Sir Nigel Bagnall, chief of General Staff of the British Army, arrived in Amman leading a military delegation on an official visit to Jordan scheduled to last several days. He will meet with military officers and visit military positions and cultural and archaeological sites in the Kingdom. On hand to welcome him at Amman airport were Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff; a number of his aides; the commander of the Jordanian Air Force; and the British ambassador in Amman.

AL-DUSTUR Sees No Shift in U.S. Policy

JN161030 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Oct 87 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Uprising and Shultz' Tour"]

[Text] When Shultz arrives in occupied Palestine today, our steadfast people's uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will have entered its 7th day. We do not count on the visit producing a shift in the American position of unstinted support for Israeli aggression. However Shultz' visit should be an opportunity for the U.S. secretary of state to see for himself Israel's arbitrary measures against our steadfast kinfolk in the occupied land.

Israeli squads of thugs thought they could possibly silence those defending their rights, homeland, and sanctities by using tactics of repression and terror and by opening fire on women and children. The thugs have instead ignited the fire of revolution and resistance. The entire occupied homeland was up against the repressive, inhuman tactics of the occupation forces, who are flying in the face of international conventions and human rights.

As well as seeing firsthand Israel's repression in the occupied land, Shultz will hear Israeli leaders' rejection of peace proposals. The U.S. secretary of state will also experience the procrastination and prevarication of Israeli leaders over all the proposals that could potentially bring peace to the region. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir has used every opportunity to declare his total opposition to the proposed international conference. Both the Arabs and the international community have accepted this conference as the only framework available for fleshing out UN resolutions on the Palestine question. An international conference would be the most suitable forum for bringing peace to the region and restoring Arab land and rights.

Surely Shultz does not need any additional information about Israel's procrastination and the peace opportunities it has wasted; he has met with Israeli officials often enough. Neither does the U.S. secretary of state need to be further familiarized with Israel's illegal practices against our steadfast kinfolk in the occupied territory. These are now universally known. More important is whether Shultz and the U.S. Administration are willing to take a firm stand against Israel's arrogance and, assuming the Americans are so disposed, will they have the guts to force upon Israel a compliance with UN resolutions and principles?

We do not count on Shultz' visit producing a dramatic shift in U.S. Mideast policies; all the same we hope that seeing things at close range might just give the U.S. secretary of state food for thought over the U.S. Administration's unqualified, unjustified support for Israeli policies. However, a unified Arab stand remains a surer, more hopeful guarantee; nothing advances Arab interests more than Arab solidarity, which the upcoming Amman summit will hopefully enhance. Everything else is worthless.

Al-Huss Improves, To Resume 'Limited' Duties

NC190522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] The state of health of Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has considerably improved. It has been learned that he will resume his duties very shortly, but his activities will be limited.

Abu Nidal Member Arrested; SFRY Help Cited

NC181615 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1428 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The Abu Nidal organization has placed its forces in Lebanon on alert, particularly in the north and some areas of the south. This took place after Mahmud 'Abd Ahmad, a senior official in the organization, disappeared.

An official of the Abu Nidal group has reported that extraordinary precautions were adopted after the discovery of a plot to arrest as many members of the group in Lebanon as possible. The plot is part of an antiterrorism campaign in Lebanon, France, the FRG, and Italy. The campaign has made good progress through German-French cooperation and has helped in the arrest of members of the French Action Directe organization, which coordinates its terrorist acts with a similar group in the FRG.

According to some reports, it is probable that the arrest of Mahmud 'Abd Ahmad came through U.S.-Yugoslav cooperation. Yugoslavia has provided the United States with information about the Abu Nidal organization, which has bases in Eastern Bloc countries, including Yugoslavia.

Hammud Announces Candidacy for Speakership

NC161613 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Deputy Joe Hammud [a Shi'ite from southern Lebanon] has announced that he will be a candidate in the election for a new speaker of the Chamber of Deputies that will take place on 20 October.

At a news conference, Hammud pledged to safeguard Lebanon's unity, rejuvenate parliamentary life, and support legislation to curb the collapse of the Lebanese economy.

Withdraws Nomination

NC181620 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Just a few hours before the election of a new Chamber speaker, Deputy Joe Hammud, a candidate for the speakership, has withdrawn his nomination. Hammud issued a statement this afternoon saying that he has adopted this stand at the request of the Higher Shi'ite Council and in a bid to preserve rank unity.

PFLP Leader Vows to Implement Birri Initiative

NC160711 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Guarded calm reigned along the combat lines east of Sidon yesterday. However, the security situation in Shatila camp suffered a setback which, according to security sources, left one person dead and four others wounded. The Amal Movement attributed the setback to a dispute between two Palestinian organizations.

Meanwhile, the Fatah Movement—Yasir 'Arafat's wing—has declared that it will not be bound by any military or political agreement which is reached in the absence of its representative. The Movement affirmed that it is not concerned with any past or future meetings.

In another development, PFLP leader George Habash has sent a cable to Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, expressing the Front's readiness to make painstaking efforts to help end the camps war. The Front noted further that it will honor its commitments in accordance with Minister Nabih Birri's initiative and with the Sidon agreement that calls for an immediate solution to the humanitarian and social problems.

Meanwhile, Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization, is due to leave for Damascus today for consultations with Syrian officials on the camps issue.

Mahmud Faqih, the official in charge of the Amal Movement's organization affairs, has reiterated the Movement's interest in preserving its relations with Sidon and its leaders. He expressed the hope that the events east of Sidon were merely a transitory summer cloud. Faqih urged all officials to exert pressure on the Palestinians to make them withdraw from positions east of Sidon.

Palestinians, Unification Front Meet on Sidon

NC161314 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Representatives of the Unification and Liberation Front and the Palestinian groups met today at the home of Eng 'Asim Qansuh. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the area east of Sidon and decided upon the following:

1. To emphasize the previous resolution on a [Palestinian] withdrawal from the area east of Sidon to the positions where the units deployed before 24 October 1986. [date as heard]

2. To form a committee to define these positions; that is, the positions where the Palestinian forces and the Amal forces were deployed and to prepare a report on the situation there.

3. To set the date for the next meeting at the home of Eng Mustafa Sa'd.

4. To decide to call on the subcommittees, particularly the engineers committee, to meet as quickly as possible.

Responding to a question on Fatah's latest statement, Eng 'Asim Qansuh said: When we asked the Palestinian delegation members about Fatah's statement they pointed out that this statement is aimed at obstructing the solution. We have learned that the Fatah group wants to have a direct meeting with us, which we reject. We have been assured by the unified Palestinian delegation that it will agree to implement any decision that is made during this meeting after briefing Fatah on what has been decided between us. For this reason, he said, we have bypassed Fatah's statement and consider it nonexistent.

3 Syrians Wounded in Clash With SSNP

NC171734 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Three soldiers of the Syrian occupation army were wounded during a clash which occurred in the Zuqaq al-Balat District in West Beirut this afternoon between the Syrians and gunmen belonging to the Jubran Jurayj wing of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP].

In its latest edition, the magazine *Al-Shira'* notes an increasing fear that a new outbreak of bloody conflict between the two SSNP wings will take place. The magazine reports that strict security measures have been taken to protect the leaders of the SSNP wings. It adds that hardly a day goes by in Al-Kurah without some security incident between the two parties, either in the form of an assassination or the blowing up of a house.

Nepalese UN Soldiers Clash With Gunmen in South

NC171037 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] At dawn today unidentified gunmen attacked a position manned by Nepalese UNIFIL soldiers in Haris, in the central sector of southern Lebanon. The Nepalese soldiers exchanged fire with the gunmen, but no casualties have been reported.

Assassination Attempt on Beirut Radio Employee

NC161519 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Gunmen fired today at our colleague 'Asim Badr al-Din in the Khaldah area in an attempt to assassinate him. He was hit by three bullets but, miraculously, he escaped death. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Hizballah Opens Television Station in Al-Biqa'

NC191032 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Hizballah has inaugurated a television station in the Al-Biqa' Valley. The Iran-financed station is currently in the experimental stages, transmitting from 1700 to midnight. The station transmits photographs of Ayatollah Khomeyni, revolutionary songs, and speeches given by scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah.

Reportage on Visit by USSR's Vorontsov

Received by Al-Shar'

JN171509 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, 17 Oct (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet deputy foreign minister, here today. During the meeting, they discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf, the results of Vorontsov's tour of the region, and the prospects for holding an international conference on the Middle East. Vorontsov arrived in Damascus today.

Urges Coordination With PLO

JN180928 Doha QNA in Arabic 0825 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Damascus, 18 Oct (QNA)—It has been learned from diplomatic sources in Damascus that Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, has urged the Arab states which he visited during his current tour of the region to coordinate their stands with the PLO toward the proposed international Middle East peace conference.

These sources said that Moscow believes that achieving a unified Arab stand in this regard would bolster Soviet efforts exerted with the United States and in international forums with the aim of pressuring Israel into accepting the conference idea. The sources added that the Soviet Union wants to see a decisive and unified Arab stand toward the conference idea to thwart U.S.-Israeli attempts to find an alternative negotiator to the PLO or to deal with Palestinian figures who do not enjoy the PLO's approval. [passage omitted]

Received by Al-Asad

JN181551 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] At 1230 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, and Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and USSR Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Dzasokhov.

Vorontsov conveyed to the president a message from the USSR leadership on the current situation in the Middle East and in other regions of the world. Talks during the meeting included regional developments and international efforts being exerted to tackle the regional situation through an international peace conference. Talks also touched on the situation in the Gulf and its ramifications as a result of intensifying the U.S. military presence there, the international situation, disarmament in Europe and in the world, and the dangers posed by plans to militarize space.

Vorontsov conveyed to the president greetings from USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other members of the USSR leadership. The president thankfully accepted these greetings and asked him to convey his greetings to Comrade Gorbachev and members of the USSR leadership.

Iran's Musavi Arrives; Welcomed by Al-Kasm

JN181041 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi arrived in Damascus at 1115 today. Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm led those who welcomed him on arrival. Also receiving him at the airport were Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Hamawi, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and Mohammad Hasan, Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Dr al-Kasm and Musavi walked to the dais where the band played the national anthems of both the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. Dr al-Kasm and Musavi reviewed the honor guards and the Iranian prime minister then shook hands with Mahmud Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Cabinet ministers; and the Iranian Embassy staff in Damascus.

'Closed Meeting' Held

JN181815 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1743 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi at 1730 today. They held a closed meeting. At 1830 the Syrian Arab side led by Dr al-Kasm and the Iranian side led by Musavi held the first session of Syrian-Iranian talks in the presence of members of both delegations. Dr al-Kasm welcomed Musavi and the members of the Iranian delegation. He emphasized the importance of this meeting. Musavi thanked him and voiced his appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and to the members of the Iranian delegation in Damascus.

In this meeting, they discussed the promotion of bilateral relations, the current regional situation, and issues of interest to the Syrian and Iranian sides in the field of bilateral cooperation. Political, economic, and cultural committees were formed to study all issues related to cooperation in these areas.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also met with Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi at Al-Rawdah Palace this evening in the presence of 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy Iranian foreign minister; Hoseyn Lavasani, political director at the Iranian Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Talks during the meeting dealt with the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region and a number of issues of mutual concern. Emphasis was placed on the need not to expand

the war and to withdraw foreign fleets from Gulf waters, as well as to secure the freedom of international navigation for everyone and to establish relations of good neighborliness and understanding between Arab states in the Gulf and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mo'ayeri Delivers Musavi Message to Al-Shar'

LD161633 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri heading a political delegation concluded his visit to Damascus and returned home Friday. Mo'ayeri discussed Tehran-Damascus relations with the Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm and Foreign Minister Farug al-Shar' during his three-day visit.

Mo'ayeri said that Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi will soon visit Syria in order to (?discuss bilateral) ties as well as regional and international issues with the Syrian officials. He said he had also conveyed Prime Minister Musavi's message to his Syrian counterpart in Damascus.

Leaves Damascus 16 Oct

JN162045 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian assistant deputy prime minister for political affairs, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this morning. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Khaddam Meets 'Arafat Envoys in Damascus

NC171254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] An informed Palestinian source in Beirut has been quoted as saying that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received four PNC members who are close to 'Arafat in Damascus on 11 October. They are Habib al-Sabbagh, Walid al-Khalidi, Basil 'Aql, and Sa'id Khuri.

The delegation delivered a message from the PLO leaders to the Syrian vice president, which included proposals pertaining to normalizing relations with Syria. Khaddam responded to the message and received another message last Tuesday [13 October] from the PLO leadership.

It is noteworthy that this Palestinian delegation was the first high-level group to visit Damascus since Syrian-Palestinian relations deteriorated in 1983.

Air Defenses Reportedly Receive USSR Drones

JN180907 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Oct (WAM)—The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* says that the Soviet Union has recently supplied Syria with an unspecified number of its latest and most sophisticated drones (type D.R.C 30) which have never before been exported outside the Soviet Union.

The newspaper quoted reliable military sources as saying that the Soviets supplied Syria with this advanced type of drone to bolster Syrian air defenses in their confrontation of Israel, in light of the lessons learned from the Syrian-Israeli military encounter in Lebanon in 1982, during which the Zionist entity used drones on a wide scale to immediately convey information on the development of military operations to commanders, thus helping coordinate air and ground attacks.

Afghanistan

PDPA CC Plenum Approves Membership Changes

LD171659 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] A PDPA Central Committee plenum was held today 17 October 1987.

The plenum considered the issues of the nationwide party conference on national reconciliation.

At this plenum Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, spoke about issues relevant to the documents on the agenda and work plans for the nationwide conference, which will be considered by the conference representatives.

The plenum unanimously approved the documents of the agenda and the work plan of the nationwide conference.

The PDPA Central Committee plenum considered organizational issues.

The plenum unanimously elected Comrades Muhammad Daod Razmyar, Hakim Mangal, Muhammadollah Safi, Sarferaz Mohmand, Sherbahadur, Abdol Hamid Mohtat, Abdol Hamid, Sayd Nasratollah, Mohammad Wali, and Hashmatollah Kayhani, as full members; and Comrades Hosyn Helali, Abdol Kabir Ranjbar, and Abdorrahim, were elected as candidate members of the PDPA Central Committee.

The plenum upgraded to full PDPA Central Committee Politburo members Comrades Najimudin Kawiani and Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, formerly candidate members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee. The plenum unanimously elected Comrade Hayder Masod, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee as a full member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

The PDPA Central Committee plenum also unanimously elected Comrade Shanawa Tani, chief of the General Staff of the DRA Armed Forces, as a candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

The plenum unanimously elected Daud Razemyar, head of the Economic Department of the PDPA Central Committee, as secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

The plenum also approved the posts of the secretaries of the party provincial committees of Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, and Balkh Provinces as being posts of the secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee.

The PDPA Central Committee plenum unanimously, relieved Comrades Mahmud Barialay, Emtiaz Hasan, Muhammad Yasin Sadeqi, Abdol Ghafar Lakanwal, Anahita Ratebzad, Aziz Karger, Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, Fedah Muhammad Dehneshin, Brigadier General Gol Aqa, Muhammad Fauq, and Muhammad Nasem Joya, from full membership of the Central Committee; and relieved Comrades Aziz Najibzada, Nematullah, Samad Poya, and Khalil Karger from candidate membership of the PDPA Central Committee.

The PDPA Central Committee plenum ended its work in complete unity, solidarity, and a revolutionary [word indistinct] climate.

Second PDPA Conference Opens in Kabul 18 Oct

LD190753 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0451 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 18, *Bakhtar*—The second nationwide conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan on the policy of national reconciliation was opened today in Kabul city.

At the opening session of the conference, Dr Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, Politburo members, members of the Secretariat and Central Committee of the PDPA, and 677 elected delegates participated.

Dr. Najibullah read at the conference the main report of the Central Committee of the PDPA about the tasks of the PDPA, on the speeding up of the process of national reconciliation and concerning the amendments to be brought in the program of action of the PDPA.

The afternoon session of the conference was presided over by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers. At the outset, S.A. Keshtmand read out at the conference the congratulatory message of the CPSU CC addressed to the participants of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA.

Later, Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC, read a resolution on the measures to be taken for strengthening the unity of the party ranks. The resolution of the second conference to this effect was unanimously endorsed by the participants of the conference.

Today's session of the conference was concluded at 6 p.m. Kabul local time in an atmosphere of unity and revolutionary solidarity.

Najib Delivers Report

LD190851 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 18, *Bakhtar*—"Today, it is for the second time that the party activists have gathered together, since the victory of the April Revolution, in a prestigious conference for the solution and collective assessment of the most imperative tasks of the party and the key issues of the growth and development of the Afghan society," said Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC delivering the main report at the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA opened here today.

Life has set before the people of Afghanistan, difficult choice, i.e, either national reconciliation should be realized or bloodshed and fratricide should continue. Here, there is no third way. The PDPA, as the tested [word indistinct] organized vanguard of the people of Afghanistan, should give a complete response to this vital issue.

Taking into consideration this serious and stark reality, we assess the way traversed and determine the new goals.

Our people, Dr. Najibullah stated, as well as the sound opponent forces, realize it furthermore that the solution of pressing issues through force and weapons is not only criminal and immoral but it is also meaningless and impossible. The only existing way is the way of national accord and constructive dialogue. Victory belongs to the side which can defend a peaceful way. This way has no other alternative.

In the programme of action of the PDPA, the April Revolution has been defined as a national and democratic revolution, i.e., a revolution which ensures national progress through the realization of wide transformations with a democratic character. Our revolution is not a proletariat and socialist revolution. Sometimes, we have been asked that due to defining the revolution and its new political system as phenomena, having a universal and popular character, do we not lose our class and revolutionary approach and do we not set back from our previous positions?

With full conviction I declare that, no, we neither lose nor surrender our principled positions, Dr. Najibullah stressed.

Identifying the universal and popular character of the revolution brings the party to the conclusion that the working out and initiation of new programmes and proposals in the Afghan society should emanate from various social forces, including the workers, peasants, intellectuals, national entrepreneurs, clergymen and other social strata. It is the duty of a revolutionary vanguard not to turn down such initiatives, but should support, with due attention and creativity, its general and democratic content. It comes here from that [as received] the ensurance of the broad unity of the people on vital issues during the current stage is not only possible but an objective necessity.

Therefore, in regard to the fact that our revolution and the policy of national reconciliation are the offsprings of the present life and possess a popular power, we come to the most important scientific conclusion, i.e., our party and revolutionary power constitute their organizing and leading force.

The policy of national reconciliation, as we realize it, has an organic and indispensable link with the Leninist policy of peaceful co-existence. This policy is one of the aspects of the tested Leninist doctrine of peace. The policy of national reconciliation, as we realize it, is based on the basis of the teachings of Lenin on concessions and the experience of utilizing them in various countries, the general secretary of the PDPA CC pointed out.

We had plowed and sowed the land and, right now, we are witnessing its first reaps. 1,600 villages have joined the popular power and, now, we have put under our control 8.5 thousand villages. Over one-quarter of the entire inhabiting villages of the country, all 45 cities of the country, the centers of all the provinces included, and 214 county and sub-counties are under our control. The provinces of Farah and Nimruz, in practice, have been liberated entirely from the existence of extremists and the people have declared their lands as zones of peace. The creation of a zone of peace in Hazarehjat is underway. This region covers five provinces, 38 counties and over 7,000 villages, and good prospect has been taken into account for Herat and Qandahar. So far, 90,000 people have returned to their homeland from the camps of Pakistan and Iran. This number could have been much greater, because 80 percent of the refugees are interested to return to their homes. But Islamabad and Iran create obstacles on the just solution of this problem. 30,000 people from 174 armed groups, have joined to the popular power and, along with them, over 100,000 individuals have returned to peaceful life.

But no data and statistic can reflect the spirit of the people, their belief and hope for the immediate victory of the cause of peace and security. The people construct, bring barren lands under cultivation and restore underground canals and streams. In Kabul, 6,000 titles of land have been allotted for residential areas. This amount too is not sufficient. In Herat, 900 houses are under construction. These are the vivid examples of peace.

Anyhow, we have traversed the first phase of national reconciliation. During this phase, the party set forth the idea of national reconciliation and acts as its militant organizer and executioner. The policy of national reconciliation is being transformed into a reality, takes a concrete feature, and manifests as the political action of the extreme majority of the Afghan people, Dr. Najibullah pointed.

But it should be pointed out that the policy of national reconciliation has not acquired so far an irreversible character. Here, everything concerns us. The enemies have intensified their military and political intervention and Washington and its henchmen increase encroachments against the people of Afghanistan. Our country has fallen victim to the policy of state terrorism of the Reagan administration. The extremists resort to all possible endeavours to foil the policy of national reconciliation.

The negative phenomenon inside the PDPA and the state apparatus too has been transformed into a deterring factor towards the realization of the new policy. The difficulties of putting into effect the new policy have caused dispersement and pessimism among a certain number of the leadership and party members. Such a situation can be seen in the body of a number of persons who are not ready for reconciliation with the opponents, due to the fear of losing their posts, as well as among those who were expecting the immediate submission of the opponents. In spite of the fact that the number of such persons are not many, the enemies skillfully exploit their sentiments and arrogances for destroying the unity, encouraging factional struggle and grouping and sometime for seeking revenge.

In this conference, we should define the content of the policy of national reconciliation in the context of its second phase.

What issues, in our view, should be included in this programme?

- Completion of the formation of the left-democratic alliance and the formulation and organization of the mechanism of cooperation with various parties.

- Formation of the state and the coalition organs of administration.

- Completion of posts proposed by us to the other side.

- Precise observation of cease-fire till January 15, 1988.

- Approval of the constitution of the country and resolving the issue concerning the name of the state and etc.

Dr. Najibullah stated further that we begin from the political system of the Afghan society to which the process of national reconciliation would introduce considerable amendments, and talk, above all, on the multi-party system, and let's see what it means.

It means that all existing parties and organisations and those which are being created can openly and freely function, provided, however that would struggle keeping in view one condition that is struggle for prosperity of the people and the homeland, for establishment of national peace. The people's power has enacted to this through a particular law. The process of joint efforts and the unity with left democratic parties have actively begun after the 18th plenum of the Central Committee. The most outstanding members of "Jaza", "Sakja" and "Sapza" [small-scale, lesser-known political parties] who collectively referred to the 19th plenum, were accepted to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The membership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has increased by over 1,000 with the joining of the above, 147 out of the members of these organisations have been appointed to leading posts.

Protocols of cooperation have been concluded with "Seza" and "Saza" [small-scale political parties], which shows that we have accumulated a considerable experience in accomplishing joint work.

The patriotic clergy have shown readiness for creating an Islamic party in Afghanistan. We welcome the foundation of such a party. As regards this issue we intend to revise the regulations of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts and would like to give the High Council of Ulema and Clergy the authority to elect the employees of the ministry after consulations with Islamic committees and the opposition. We hope that the honourable ulema and esteemed clergymen would work, as intermediaries, in all places in making reconciliation with the opposition forces.

The need for the more direct and active participation of peasants and workers in the political life has come into being. The peasants' party can unite the agricultural working and those who have become owners of land as well as members of cooperatives.

There will be a place for the People's Democratic Party which will reflect the interests of patriotic national bourgeoisie in the political structure of the society.

We will make all-round contribution to the establishment of the unity of left democratic parties. Participating in it, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan will not lose its identity but will preserve its position as a nation-wide progressive force.

The leaders of Afghanistan do this [word indistinct] to find ways leading to compromise with the political forces, including the rightists. Contacts with some of the representatives of the seven-party coalition would also expand and broaden. It is necessary to take into consideration this aspect of multi-party [sentence as received].

Multi-party system based on the principle of national reconciliation, can remove the political isolation of our party which is engaged alone in the struggle against imperialist and counter-revolutionary forces. It is obvious that the new unity or the block of political forces can be realised within the framework of the national front.

The coalition stems from the multi-party system. What does it mean? It means that the power will not be concentrated in the hands of only one party, but several

parties which would unite on the basis of common policies, national understanding and building of Afghanistan having national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-aligned status.

The coalition can unite and mobilize all forces if only they devote themselves to establishing peace and security.

The life has shown, that the political creativity of the people who do not want the continuation of war, would bring, in practice, different forms of coalition administration. And this coalition would expand from bottom to top.

The main role in creating the coalition is being played by our party. However, the achievement of this should pass through at least two stages. The first one is the struggle for materializing the policy of national reconciliation and the second is to ensure its irreversible character. It is necessary for us to determine the essence and tasks of every stage. It is an important issue. At the present stage, the universal support of the people to the policy of national reconciliation which the PDPA has worked out and translates into practice, has defined the leading and directing role of the party. In the next stage, that is, the direct realisation of the coalition administration, the PDPA ought not to lose its leading role. And for achieving this end, we should get prepared from now onwards.

I would like to particulary emphasize that the objectives and the slogans of the National Democratic April Revolution will be preserved. However, at these stages, the party should support every measure which will result in cessation of war and achievement of national peace.

In the conditions of multi-party system and coalition, our party would have to win twice its authority and reputation. Right now we should harmonize our work with masses not on the basis of command, but through convincing them.

These days the process of ascertaining public opinion on the draft constitution would come to an end. This campaign has really got the general character. Around two million countrymen have taken part in this process. Around 15,000 proposals and critical views have been recieved by the commission for drafting the constitution.

The Afghan leader further stated the Loya Jirgah [assembly] would be held in Qash (November-December) to endorse the constitution and elect the president. The decision on the fact that the party has preserved the post of the president for itself, will be rational. Under the conditions of national reconciliation and the coalition government, the president can rely on the party and the government.

This would, for sure, cause the strengthening of the prestige of the coalition power and assertion of the stand of the PDPA in the society.

Touching upon the party rules, Dr. Najibullah said this rules has lagged behind the time and does not correspond to the needs of the party structure at the present stage. At the same time, this rules is full of the examples of haste and need amendments.

Veteran party members remember that once there was a limited number of persons in the party. In 1346 (ms) 1967, this number was 15,000 in 1356 (1977), 90,000 in 1982 and 185,000 now. It is worth mentioning that the biggest figure of admission to the party goes back to 1986. After the proclamation of the policy of national reconciliation, around 40,000 members and candidate members have been admitted to the PDPA.

The credibility of party depends on the credibility of every party member, how a party member works, where he lives and how he deals with his comrades colleagues and subordinates.

During the long period overt and covert factional struggle which has destroyed the oneness of the ranks of the party and breached party discipline, existed Najibullah pointed out.

The Central Committee would pay serious and keen attention to these causes that the issue of unification of the party and struggle for implementation of the policy of national accord should be placed on the top of priority tasks of primary party organizations.

Factionism and groupings in the PDPA stem from inadequate perception of revolutionary and scientific theory by members of the PDPA and above all by the leading cadres by virtue of this most of the party members cannot adopt a firm ideologic stand and an irreconcilable approach towards those who destroy the unity of the party.

In addition to factionism and groupings from the very days of the establishment of the party the fire of a hard struggle for obtaining power among separate grounds and leaders of these groups who could not remove the habits of groupism and cliquishness. [sentence as received]

In the minds of some of them baseless justifications for the righteousness of their position arose the process of revolution of the revolution proved that they were mistaken. [sentence as received]

Militancy of the organizations is always dependent on the unity of the party ranks, for the PDPA this problem due to the need for acceleration of the process of national reconciliation (NR), creation of coalition administration and multi-party system gets more complex. At the same time resistance of domestic and foreign enemies that are relying on the violation of unity of the PDPA is increasing. How can we cross the various obstacles and finally, succeed? There is only one answer to this question and it is that the PDPA should secure its cohesive unity and

high militancy of its ranks not in words, and from behind the tribunes but in practical manner. It should be declared most courageously and forcefully that if the PDPA could not attain this aim the party will lose its leading role in the society and will be driven out of the political system, therefore now the time has come to put an end to factions and groupism that for years as a rust has been eroding the very roots of the party unity and damaging party discipline, he stressed.

The party should carry out an irreconcilable struggle against all aspects of factionalism. The decisive role in this struggle should be played by the party organisations at all levels, from the Central Committee to the party groups.

Dr. Najibullah added, the members of the party propose that the Central Auditing Commission of the Central Committee should be reconstructed in the framework of Central Committee as the Central Committee of the party. It is necessary that this organ should be strengthened and its authority should be promoted. This proposal deserves support and reaffirmation.

It is proposed at the conference that a resolution in relation to the strengthening the unity of the party should be adopted. This document must be changed into the true oath of every party member. We invite every delegate, every member of the PDPA, any one for whom the honour of the party is more important than the flank, group and personal interest to sign at the bottom of the resolution.

We shall not sarcastically remark to those who, due to the moral and political immaturity are hesitating to take such oath. We request from them that they should withdraw, and let the ranks of our party be cleaned of them and make it possible for the party to unite together in its opinions, will, and actions. Otherwise a bitter destiny, serious action and hatred of the whole party and the people await the factionalists and violators. There is no other way but true loyalty to and serving the unity of the party.

Structure and strengthening of the Armed Forces, was at the core of the attention of the Central Committee, Politbureau, Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers.

The total number of the armed forces has increased to 127 thousand persons including 40 thousand in army, 30 thousand [passage indistinct]

Political Observer on Spread of U.S. Stingers

LD161432 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0536 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 15, *Bakhtar*—A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes:

According to international media, Iran has recently used anti-air advanced American Stinger missile against the U.S. Air Forces in the Gulf and has shot an aggressive U.S. military helicopter.

The Reagan administration has put at the disposal of Afghan extremists American Stinger missiles for achieving air terrorism for the massacre of the innocent people of Afghanistan. These professional criminals have fire-rocketed five passenger planes of the DRA, the crashes of which have caused the death of 160 Afghan passengers including 22 children and 16 women.

It is to be noted that the United States has put the missiles at the disposal of the counter-revolutionaries of Nicaragua and the extremist elements opposing the state of Afghanistan.

Despite that the Iranian authorities have implicitly said that they have probably obtained the U.S. Stingers through U.S. brokers. But according to the assertions of Western mass media there is the possibility that Iran would have obtained the missiles through the ringleaders of the extremist elements.

The basic question arises why such dangerous weapons are irresponsibly put at the disposal of terrorist groups from Pentagon's stockpiles of warfares. The answer to this question is found from the world publications which say that these missiles not only were indirectly supplied to Iran but there is the possibility that such missiles will be put at the disposal of international air terrorists.

The political observers had envisaged long ago that if American Stinger rockets become available to the terrorists and the Afghan extremist elements, these weapons not only will be used for the purpose of air blind terrorism but it will also endanger the security of civil aviation throughout the world.

In the conditions when the party and state of the DRA have announced the policy of national reconciliation for putting an end to bloodshed and fratricide and asked the international communities to help the DRA in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the country, the Reagan administration and its NATO allies are putting the most up-to-date anti-aircraft Stinger and Blowpipe missiles at the disposal of the extremist elements. The false defenders of human rights must realise that by supplying the opposition extremists they not only commit crimes in Afghanistan, but it has also become a reality that they will burn in the flames of such mortal weapons.

Najib Receives Bulgarian Envoy's Credentials

LD170625 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] This morning at the Gol Khana Palace, headquarters of the DRA Revolutionary Council, esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, accepted the credentials of His Excellency (Ivon Mativ Ivanov), ambassador and representative extraordinary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Kabul, according

to routine formalities. Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of foreign affairs, and the head of protocol of that ministry were present.

Khales Elected Chief of Resistance Alliance

BK181614 Hong Kong AFP in English
1558 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 18 (AFP)—Maulawi Muhammad Yunos Khales was Sunday unanimously elected chief of the seven-party Afghan Resistance Alliance, resistance sources here said.

Mr. Khales, who is also president of his faction within the Hezb-e Eslami group, was already spokesman for the resistance.

The sources said the post of spokesman which used to rotate among the guerrillas chieftains every three months, had been abolished and all seven leaders had decided to appoint Mr. Khales as amir (chief) of the alliance for a period of 18 months.

The Alliance's Executive Council, which met here for two days, was attended by leaders of all the seven rebel groups, the sources said.

Mr Khales, 66, is an active guerrilla leader who often leads his mujahidin guerrillas against the Soviet-Afghan forces in their "liberation struggle."

He was the first guerrilla chief to reject Afghan leader Najibullah's offer of a cease-fire and an invitation to join the Kabul government in January this year as a trap.

However, analysts here said they did not regard Mr. Khales, a Pushtun leader hailing from eastern Afghanistan's Nangrahar Province, as a radical.

His election for 18 months also contradicted speculation that the rebels' fragile unity was on the verge of breaking up due to strong differences within the resistance alliance, they added.

An important guerrilla leader, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, was said to be planning to guit the alliance after he held elections in his faction of the Hezb-e Eslami group, which returned him as president last month.

The alliance is also to elect a general council consisting of mujahidin and Afghan refugee leaders, establishing an interim government which could take over when and if Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, the sources said.

Mr. Khales is expected to lead an Afghan mujahidin leaders' delegation to the United Nations General Assembly to lobby support for a resolution demanding an immediate Soviet withdrawal from their country.

The guerrillas organisation has not been given observers status at the U.N. though the 45-nation Islamic Conference Organisation terminated Afghanistan's membership after Soviet troops installed a pro-Moscow regime in Kabul in 1979.

India

Gandhi News Conference at Commonwealth Meeting

Discusses Fiji, South Africa

BK180405 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that India is willing to stop pressure on the LTTE in Jaffna if they surrender all their arms and fall within the framework of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. Mr Gandhi was addressing a news conference in Vancouver at the end of the Commonwealth summit. He said there is no reason for the LTTE to go on with their campaign of violence and they should work politically for what they stand. The prime minister pointed out that the LTTE made certain demands before the signing of the agreement. All these have been agreed to. It is they who have backed out at every single point, he added.

Answering questions on developments in Fiji, Mr Gandhi said there can be no compromise with racism whether it is in South Africa or Fiji. He said Fiji could be readmitted to the Commonwealth only if there are no racial overtones in its government or its constitution. New Delhi has already imposed trade sanctions against Fiji. It is studying the situation there and will work out a plan of action at an appropriate time.

All India Radio special correspondent Harish Avasti reports:

[Begin recording] The prime minister described the Vancouver summit as a resounding success, although he said it was difficult to understand Britain's logic behind its dissent on the question of sanctions against South Africa. He said Britain's financial help to the frontline states was a mere sop to the sufferers of the apartheid system, rather than direct action at dismantling racism. He said we don't see that road leading to the end of apartheid. Mr Gandhi pointed out that Britain itself had applied sanctions, for example, in Poland for much less than what is happening in South Africa. The fact is, that it does not want to apply sanctions for its own reasons. [end recording].

Remarks on LTTE

BK181027 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1000 GMT 18 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The LTTE has gone back on their commitments on every single occasion and it is very difficult for us to believe that the LTTE has changed and whether they will stick by what they have said.

We are willing to stop the pressure in Jaffna provided LTTE categorically surrenders all their weapons and they agree to fall within the framework of the settlement.

The settlement meets every single demand of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and it goes beyond the demands that they had made. There is no reason for them not to come within the framework of the settlement and work politically now for what they have been fighting for, for so long.

This statement was made by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at a news conference held at the end of the Commonwealth conference at Vancouver.

Gandhi Speaks at Commonwealth Conference

For a report on the speech by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at the Commonwealth Heads of State Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, and other Commonwealth activities, see the International Affairs section of the 16 October *West Europe Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Spokesman Rules Out LTTE Request for Cease-Fire

BK161621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Excerpts] India has ruled out cessation of the peacekeeping force operations in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka until the LTTE surrenders all arms unconditionally and publicly announces its support for the India-Sri Lanka agreement. Briefing newsmen in Colombo this evening, an Indian High Commission spokesman said that the messages from the LTTE have been sent to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran; the DMK leader, Mr Karunanidhi; and the Indian High Commission in Colombo. None of these messages, the spokesman said, has indicated willingness of the LTTE to surrender arms. He pointed out that India's stand is that the current operations have been launched to bring about disarming of the militants. He said these messages have been prompted by the pressure on the LTTE by the peacekeeping force. It may be an effort to buy time for the LTTE men to escape to other parts of Sri Lanka.

In New Delhi, an official spokesman confirmed the receipt of a letter from the LTTE chief, Mr Prabhakaran, to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. It was received in the form of a telegram. The spokesman said the Government of India has always attached their highest priority to peaceful persuasions. The whole objective of the India-Sri Lankan agreement is to ensure return of peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka and to secure the legitimate interests of the Tamils. As the prime minister has stated, the Indian Government still hopes that the LTTE will even now join this process and start working for the interest of the Sri Lankan Tamils, rather than pursue its own self-aggrandizement. For this purpose, the spokesman said Mr Prabhakaran should see that the LTTE surrenders all arms in terms of the India-Sri Lankan agreement and extend full support to it.

About the Tamil refugees, the spokesman said the Indian Government is in touch with the Sri Lankan authorities to finalize arrangements for the early start of their return. He said that there has been certain delays in the return of the refugees, partly due to the disturbed conditions. There are about 25,000 Tamil refugees in the camps in Tamil Nadu, and about 100,000 outside. The spokesman said the process of registration of refugees will start soon. The first batch is being readied for return to Jaffna. [passage omitted]

[Colombo *Lanka Puwath* in English at 1633 GMT on 16 October in a similar report adds: "Indian Defense Minister K C Pant, who was on his way to New Delhi, told newsmen at Madras airport that the LTTE was not able to see the problem in the 'correct perspective.'

["He urged the LTTE to cooperate with the Indian Government to help implement the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement."]

'Elite Combat Troops' Sent to Sri Lanka

BK171624 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 17 Oct 87

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 17 (AFP)—Civilians fled the besieged northern town of Jaffna Saturday as India sent in 300 more elite combat troops to beef up a force poised for a final push against Tamil rebels, officials said.

Indian diplomats here said some 6,000 Indian soldiers were locked in fierce fighting with Tamil militants just outside Jaffna, the stronghold of the dominant Tamil rebel group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"The fighting was raging early Saturday morning, but we have no reports of the casualties yet," a diplomat who declined to be identified said.

More than 500 LTTE guerrillas and 80 Indian soldiers have been killed during the Indian military offensive aimed at disarming Tamil rebels which began October 8, according to the Indian High Commission here. [passage omitted]

In New Delhi, officials said 300 combat troops trained in urban warfare had been airlifted to Sri Lanka Saturday to participate in a final push against Tamil rebels defending Jaffna.

The army carried out three sorties to transport the troops from Madras to Jaffna early Saturday in civilian Boeing airliners, the officials said.

Defense Ministry sources said the reinforcements are to be used as a cutting edge by the Indian force in a final assault on LTTE bastions.

Military strategists in New Delhi estimated that LTTE bunkers and strongholds would be overrun by Indian troops by the middle of next week.

They said the Indian advance was being delayed by mines and booby traps planted by the LTTE but that Indian troops had begun clearing the obstacles.

Defense Ministry sources in New Delhi said that 1,500 infantrymen were scheduled to be sent to Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee District Sunday from a military base in central India.

More than 15,000 Indian soldiers are in Sri Lanka to enforce an agreement signed between New Delhi and Colombo on July 29 aimed at ending the island's bloody Tamil separatist struggle.

India has rejected a fresh appeal for an end to the offensive by LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, believed to be in Jaffna and directing the resistance against the Indian troops.

"We will continue the operation until the LTTE surrenders all its weapons unconditionaily and agrees to cooperate in the implementation of the peace pact," an Indian High Commission spokesman said.

Strike in Support of LTTE Has 'Little Impact'
BK171316 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has moved further toward the Jaffna town after capturing a strategic point at Urumpirai and inflicting heavy casualties on LTTE. The peacekeeping force also successfully broke off stiff resistance from LTTE at Navatkuli and [is] maintaining its pressure from all fronts.

Meanwhile, a UNI report from Madras says that the 6-hour hartal [strike] in protest against the peacekeeping force offensive against the LTTE had little impact on normal life in Tamil Nadu today. Reports say rail and bus services were normal and some shops were open. The hartal was called by Dravida Munnetra Kazagham and Tamil Nadu Congress. The ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham had extended its support. However, DMK, CPI, and CPI-M did not join.

MP Arrested for Attempted LTTE Visit
BK181239 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1130 GMT 18 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (*Lanka Puwath*)—An Indian member of parliament V. Gopalaswamy who called at the LTTE terrorist office in Indira Nagar, Madras, and tried to meet LTTE's former regional commander Kittu who is now being detained at the LTTE office was arrested.

A report published in the Indian national newspaper *Hindu* (on October 17) monitored by *Lanka Puwath* states D.M.K. [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] member of parliament V. Gopalaswamy, who tried to meet Kittu alias Krishnakumar, former Jaffna regional commander of the LTTE, last Friday afternoon was arrested by the police. He was taken to the Adyar police station where a case was registered against him under section 153 (a) of the Indian Penal Code for promoting enmity, hatred and ill will between groups by shouting inflammatory slogans.

Earlier the DMK member of parliament had insisted for about 45 minutes that he must meet Kittu, but the police did not relent.

He was then arrested and driven away in a jeep.

Natwar Singh Discusses 'Nuclear Option'
BK181312 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has said if Pakistan gets a nuclear bomb, India would have to reconsider its nuclear option. In an interview published in a New York monthly, Mr Singh said that Pakistan's nuclear program is a very grave matter. India does not want to go nuclear, but this position will be reconsidered if Islamabad gets a bomb.

On Indo-U.S. relations, Mr Singh said the United States is still India's largest trade partner and there is good collaboration in various fields between the two countries.

3 Killed in Separate Incidents in Punjab
BK171615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, two terrorists and a caretaker of a religious place were killed in separate incidents today. Agency reports say the terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces near Panduri village in Hoshiarpur District this evening. In Gurdaspur District, a caretaker of a religious place was hacked to death by terrorists in Dakoha village.

Meanwhile, the terrorist Jagjit Singh, alias Kala, who was injured in an encounter with the police near Rajpura bypass last night, succumbed to his injuries in the hospital today. Jagjit Singh was involved in the Lalru massacre of bus passengers.

1 Killed, 3 Injured by 'Terrorists' in Punjab
BK190454 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, one person was killed and three seriously injured by terrorists in village Jalota in Hoshiarpur District last evening. They were standing in a street when they, the terrorists, opened indiscriminate firing.

Police and paramilitary forces have arrested some more terrorists and their harborers during raids on suspected hideouts during the last 24 hours. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from their possession.

Meanwhile, the Amritsar District administration has closed all educational institutions in the city for 3 days from today. This has been done as a precautionary measure in view of the Diwali [Hindu festival] celebrations.

3 Sikh Priests Detained Under Security Act

BK181619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, the Amritsar police have detained the three Sikh head priests under the National Security Act. They are Jathedar [Sikh religious leader] Savinder Singh of Kesgarh Sahib; Jathedar Jaswant Singh of Damdama Sahib; and Giani Kashmira Singh, head granthi [Sikh religious scripture reader] of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion]. Agency reports say the action follows the summoning of the Sarbat Khalsa convention [world Sikh convention] by the head priests on Thursday despite a government ban.

Tibetans Protest Against PRC 'Persecution'

OW151205 Tokyo KYODO in English 1149 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 15 KYODO—About 2,000 Tibetans staged a two-hour demonstration in New Delhi Thursday in protest against what they charged as Chinese persecution of Tibetans in Tibet.

The demonstrators also demanded that China immediately release all Tibetan political prisoners.

The protesters marched to the Indian Parliament square after staging a rally to denounce Chinese persecution of Tibetans in Tibet.

The turnout was the largest since the bloody October 1 anti-Chinese riots in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa.

The demonstrators, mostly Tibetan residents in India, also demanded that Beijing accept a five-point peace plan announced recently by the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

In a note delivered to both the Chinese Embassy and the Indian prime minister's office, they also demanded that China allow human rights groups such as the London-based Amnesty International to travel to Tibet and conduct independent investigations there.

Iran

Tehran TV Reports U.S. Attack on Oil Platforms

NC191542 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] IRNA reports that U.S. destroyers savagely attacked the Rashadat and Resalat oil platforms in the Persian Gulf this afternoon. During the aggression by the U.S. forces, severe damage was inflicted on the oil platforms. According to reports, several civilian employees were wounded. These Iranian oil drilling platforms have no military value and are only bases for the extraction of oil from the Persian Gulf. The platforms are more than 100 km from the Iranian coast.

Oil Ministry Announces Attack

LD191555 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 19 Oct 87

["U.S. Navy Attacks Two Iranian Oil Platforms in P.G."—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 19, IRNA—The U.S. Navy attacked two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf Monday afternoon, an informed source of the Oil Ministry told IRNA here today. The source identified the oil platforms as 'Resalat' and 'Rashadat' located 100 kms from Lavan Island.

Kharrazi on 'Full-Fledged War'

LD191601 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct 19, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr Kamal Kharrazi warned here Monday that the U.S. will receive a crushing response for its criminal attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. He called on the Iranian people to be prepared to counter U.S. aggressions and give a suitable response to the Reagan administration.

The U.S. by attacking Iranian oil platforms, Resalat (Rostam) and Reshadat (Rakhsh) [names as received] in the Persian Gulf has actually got involved in a full-fledged war with the Islamic Republic, he added.

According to the latest reports reaching here, heavy losses were inflicted on the Iranian oil platforms and some of the civilian crew members were injured.

"The U.S. has entered a swamp from which it can in no way get out safely", noted the WIH head.

Kharrazi said that in military terms the U.S. Naval attack on the Iranian platforms is of no significance because these were just economic installations manned by Oil Ministry technical personnel.

He likened today's U.S. crime to those committed by the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf over the past seven years, and said the Reagan administration should not boast its crime as military feat.

Said the WIH head, U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf is a blatant violation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which ironically has been endorsed by Washington as a permanent member of the international body.

This is a firm indication that the Reagan administration is not committed to any principles, he added.

In fact the U.S. is in the region to fight the Islamic revolution of Iran in a show of open support to the Iraqi regime, Kharrazi said noting "Today, the Washington-Baghdad axis is fighting the Iranian Muslim people."

As the Iraqi invasion of Iran seven years ago faced the stiff resistance of the Iranian people, the U.S. aggressive acts will only lead to further strengthening of unity and cohesion among Iranian people, inspiring them to confront the U.S. military forces, he said.

Noting the similarity between the gradual U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war and its present entanglement in the Persian Gulf quagmire, Kharrazi concluded that American soldiers will never be able to extricate themselves from this terrible swamp.

Meanwhile, a WIH spokesman had warned earlier Monday that any hostile U.S. action against Iran which might heighten regional tension will seriously endanger American interests.

Cautioned the WIH spokesman that the resistant nation of Iran is fully prepared to confront the U.S. if it resorts to mischievous adventures in the Persian Gulf and there is no doubt that the U.S. will suffer most from the escalation of tension.

The U.S. and reactionary regional governments will be responsible for such a situation, noted the spokesman.

He warned regional countries to refrain from providing any facilities for the U.S. for carrying its provocative acts against Iran or else Iran's response will be crushing.

The spokesman further called on the American people to pressure the U.S. Administration to halt its adventurism in the Persian Gulf for the safety of their (?own) children before they rue the whole affair feel repentance.

In related news, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said before the U.S. attack on the Iranian oil platforms that any military action by Washington in the Persian Gulf is the beginning of a full-scale confrontation in the region and thus the grave consequences of such a clash will rest solely on Washington.

The spokesman made the remarks in response to recent statements by American officials that the U.S. may retaliate against Iran for its alleged missile attack on an American reflagged-Kuwaiti tanker at Al-'Ahmadi Port of Kuwait.

He said such aggressions by the U.S. will certainly be a proof of its ill intentions of setting afire the whole Persian Gulf in a bid to carry out its expansionist policies in the region. This means that the U.S. is getting ready for another Vietnam.

The despatch of warships by the U.S. to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of guaranteeing safe navigation in the region has only jeopardized regional security more than ever before, he said, noting that the Americans are actually trying to heighten regional tension.

Noted the Foreign Ministry spokesman that Iran's principled policy is to prevent tension in the region because the Persian Gulf belongs to the littoral states.

The Islamic Republic will decisively respond to any new U.S. aggressive action, warned the spokesman. In fact, he added, the U.S. aggression has been predictable since the day the American warships arrived in the region and therefore Iran has been prepared for such an eventuality.

The spokesman warned that the responsibility for such confrontation will rest solely on the U.S. Administration and that regional countries should know that the fire ignited by any hostile U.S. action in the region will not be of a limited nature but will spread to the whole region.

Khamene'i Pledges To Retaliate

LD191647 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] This afternoon U.S. warships attacked the Reshadat oil platforms [as heard] in the Persian Gulf.

Mr Khamene'i, president of Iran and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, at the end of an extraordinary meeting of the Supreme Defense Council in charge of war support, referred to today's U.S. attacks on the oil platforms of the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasized: We will definitely take retaliatory action and will not leave this U.S. move unanswered.

Our country's Foreign Ministry in a statement today announced: The U.S. use of military forces against the Iranian oil platforms is a clear and decisive aggression against the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran as an Islamic and nonaligned country. This action will certainly receive a decisive and appropriate answer at the right time.

War Information HQ Warns U.S. Against Action
LD191046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Iran has warned the United States against resorting to any agitation in the Persian Gulf and warned that any U.S. action against Iran exacerbating the tension and crisis in the Persian Gulf will definitely endanger American interests.

According to a Central News Unit report, the spokesman for the War Information Headquarters said in response to American officials' remarks about taking military action against Iran: Once again the United States wishes to test the tested and to revive the bitter experience of Vietnam for the American people. We warn the American people: Before you are sorry, pressure the American ruling clique to return your children safely on their own volition.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Sermons
LD161645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Friday prayers sermons delivered by President Khamene'i on 16 October at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] God's peace and blessings be upon you. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I invite all the brothers and sisters in the congregation to bear in mind the protection of divine piety and to remember God's greatness, mercy, and chastisement. I call upon you to observe what God has ordained and what He has forbidden. [passage omitted]

In today's first sermon, I will continue the previous discussion on the various forms of freedom in an Islamic society and the Islamic government's responsibility to protect and safeguard that freedom. This subject was discussed over the course of several Friday sermons. Today's discussion will concern economic freedom, and economic activity and endeavors. This is a most important and, at the same time, extremely sensitive subject. It may be said that this subject has been one of the most burning and controversial issues of the past 20 or 30 years during which Islamic issues and new Koranic thoughts have been spreading among Islamic intellectuals and, in turn, gradually among the people.

The issue of economic freedom in Islam has also been abused in many instances. On one hand, the supporters of the leftist schools of thought abused it by claiming that Islam advocated a free market economy and therefore, favored exploitation. They attacked Islam under this pretext. Some people who wanted to defend Islam but who were not properly cognizant of profound Islamic thoughts, also committed abuses or made mistakes out of fear of attack from the leftists. They completely renounced economic freedom in Islam and denied that such a thing as economic freedom existed in Islam.

There were also those who practiced abuses, that is, they took advantage of the economic freedom in Islam and lined their own pockets. Both before the victory of the revolution—when the regime in power at the time encouraged this attitude—and even after the victory of the Islamic system of rule, those people abused the existing freedoms to increase their wealth and riches to a great extent. At any rate, it is a sensitive topic, and I do not want to discuss it today. I will discuss it in one or two sermons in the future. A Friday sermon is not the appropriate forum to hold delicate, detailed, and didactive discussions. In addition, all the topics relating to this matter need not be discussed in great detail in such a forum. There are currently other topics that take precedence.

Everything I say today will be of general concern, things on which perhaps all the people agree unanimously. Those who have various views on the matter should have no doubts about a number of things. I will devote attention to these in the future.

The issue of economic freedom can be looked at from different angles. The first thing that should be said is that when we say and believe that there is economic freedom in Islam, this freedom should in no way be compared with the economic freedom that operates in the Western capitalist world. There are two forms of freedom and economic activity. What operates in the West today, which I shall describe later, is not supported by Islam. Capitalism, in the Western sense, has never been accepted or condoned in Islam. In truth, it has been attacked and seriously rejected in a number of Islamic injunctions. This is the first point for those who talk about private ownership and economic freedom to understand right from the start and to realize that what is being said in Islam cannot be found in the Western capitalist system as it is known today. That is one thing and this is something else.

The next point is that the best way to secure economic freedom in an Islamic society is for the Islamic government to adopt a range of policies and laws under which everyone will be able to engage freely in economic activity. All levels in society will be able to benefit from their economic activity. This characteristic distinguishes the Islamic system from the Western system. Although it is claimed that the people are free to engage in economic activity in the Western system, in fact that freedom does not belong to all the people. [passage omitted] The proper way to engage in freedom of economic activity in an Islamic society is not to give that freedom only to those who have the power to manipulate the economy, because, in addition to those who are able to freely engage in economic activity, society's laws and structure should enable all people, that is, all those who are able to work, to exercise that freedom in the economic sphere.

The next point concerning economic freedom is that all forms of freedom in an Islamic society should be controlled, guided, and supervised by the ruling authority in

that society. This will ensure that freedom does not lead to corruption and does not deprive others of their freedom. The same applies to the freedom of expression, to political freedom, and to economic freedom. [passage omitted]

Another point about economic freedom in Islam is that Islam will never allow freedom of economic activity to encroach on the political destiny of society or to interfere in the political fabric and organizations of society—in other words, not like the rule of capitalism which operates with the utmost power in the Western capitalist system. [passage omitted]

Also, there is no economic freedom in socialist countries. In the socialist countries where the government controls all the factories, land, and means of production, and where all the people are government employees, nothing can be expected from the people. What can the people do, for example, during earthquakes, wars, sickness, or disasters in society? They are all government employees. What can they do, except to offer their bodies? However, this is not so in an Islamic society. In an Islamic society, the people are directly responsible for plugging economic gaps, giving money, and in running economic affairs as needs arise. This is an Islamic principle, the principle of giving. [passage omitted]

These days the main issues are the problems relating to the aggression and the offensive mounted by the arrogant American regime and the open support given by that regime, as the head of global arrogance, and its followers to the aggressor regime of Iraq. Today this factor has brought to light this undeniable fact: During the past few years, this aggression, this military aggression—which was mounted by the Iraqi regime, an aggression associated with all sorts of political crimes and war crimes—was accomplished with American support. This was clear to us; we knew it from the very beginning, and we have repeatedly announced that the invasion and aggression by the Iraqi regime took place with the encouragement of global arrogance led by the United States and U.S. agents in our own region. Their objective is to overthrow the Islamic regime and to fight Islam.

This was clear to our people. However, today it is now clear to the world. Now the U.S. regime has no alternative but to announce that it supports Iraq, because its presence in the Persian Gulf cannot otherwise be justified. Therefore, it is forced to admit, through a variety of interpretations and languages, that its basic intention is to confront the Islamic Revolution, campaign against Islam and Islamic culture, and support the enemy of Islam and the Islamic culture—indeed, support the aggressor force, the Iraqi regime. They are now forced to admit this.

Of course, a major mistake which global arrogance makes in its assessments—a mistake it always makes—is this: They imagined and continue to imagine that it is possible to obstruct a progressive culture and a great and attractive Islamic movement through military moves and bullying maneuvers. This is the mistake they make. These days a number of U.S. officials—politicians, spokesmen, and the like, and their supporters in the world—have had to admit that the American presence is intended to prevent the export of the Islamic Revolution. Well, if the purpose were a military-type export—to export Islam and revolution by the sword and military power—this has never been on the agenda. Everyone knows it was not our policy to do so.

However, if the purpose were to influence world societies by the culture of the revolution—if by export is meant what has been accomplished day by day since the beginning of the revolution—we see that Islamic nations are more than ever attracted to the Islamic Revolution and by the revival of the name of Islam. Such a revival not only cannot be prevented by a U.S. military presence, but it will also lead to an increase in the influence of Islam and the Islamic Revolution, and its attraction for other nations. They see the sincerity and righteousness of our regime. They see how we resist the strongest world powers for the sake of the banner of Islam and for raising this banner, and for revival of the name of the Koran. Moreover, we are not prepared to retreat from such powers.

There is nothing more attractive to the nations than to see that there is a nation, a group, or even one person in the world that speaks for righteousness and stands by what he says, and thus endures all sorts of difficulties and fears no threats. Such a situation makes our nation even more popular and increases our attraction in the world. You see today in North Africa, in Tunisia, in Egypt, in Morocco and in many more countries, the slogans of our nation are expanding daily. Why? The reason for it is the fact that the nations realize we are telling the truth, they realize that the Iranian nation is genuinely defending Islam, revolutionary Islam, and Islamic revolution, and Islamic values.

If, at one time, they set their chained dog to claw and to attack us, now they themselves have come to the Persian Gulf, bringing their fleets. Moreover, this was not enough for them, therefore they have dragged along the fleets of their European friends. Please look and see how great an armada has been built up in the Persian Gulf. Who can believe that so many warships are being used so that a few oil tankers may pass through in security. Who can believe such a thing?

Now they realize that the reason for the presence of so much sea power has a different purpose: a campaign, a confrontation, an attack on something. Now, what is that thing? It is Islam. It is the slogan of revolutionary Islam. It is the banner that this nation has raised and that has aroused 1 billion Muslims throughout the world. Everyone feels the same: They want to surround the revolution, to attack the revolution, thinking that they can

prevent the export of the revolution. However, unwittingly and foolishly, they help increase the popularity of the Iranian nation. Therefore, they will meet with defeat as they always have.

In addition to the fact that the Iranian nation's spiritual attraction will increase attributable to the U.S. military presence—as it is now being seen and as evidence suggests, and as later on, God willing, more evidence will show—the United States is condemned to ignominy and humiliations greater than those it suffered previously. [shouts of approval by the crowd] [passage omitted]

Please allow me to continue. The outcome of the U.S. presence in this region is clear: It has not brought security. If they had come to really establish security, their presence should have had some effect at least in establishing security in the Persian Gulf. Today, the U.S. regime is trying to make its people believe that its venture in the Persian Gulf and all its military expenditure—and the very grave dangers facing U.S. citizens in this region—will enable them to secure the passage of oil tankers in this region and to prevent vessels from being hit.

So, take note. How effective has the U.S. presence here been? Its presence has not only not brought about security, but has actually increased insecurity. If, ships were being damaged by Iraqi missiles and various types of attacks were made against oil tankers—attacks and counterattacks—then today exactly the same situation exists and the Americans themselves, poor things, have fallen victim to this tension and insecurity. You heard yesterday that a U.S. ship, a U.S. tanker—the report was cited on television and radio all over the world—off the shores of Kuwait was hit and destroyed by a missile launched from somewhere. This morning again, another oil tanker was hit and this one was flying the U.S. flag. So, the very same ships that the United States... [Khamene'i is interrupted by the crowds chanting: "Death to America," and other slogans] So, these are the very same ships that the United States has spent so much on and raised so much ballyhoo and clamor over during the past few months. All of this took place so that these vessels carrying the U.S. flag could enter the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz, sail up to Kuwait, load their oil, and return. One of these very same vessels was again hit by a missile and caught fire. Where this missile came from, only God almighty knows. In truth, no one has yet accepted responsibility for it.

Of course, the U.S. mass media and the Western media—under the influence of U.S. policy—have not yet announced this news and perhaps they may not want to announce it. Perhaps their policy is that this news item should not be mentioned. In any case, these things are going on in the Persian Gulf.

Whenever there is tension, it reaches everyone. What we said was: We cannot have our shipping and oil routes attacked, while those of other countries in the Persian Gulf remain intact. The United States insisted: Yes, this is possible. Well, now you are seeing the United States' own vessels are not immune or secure. This is the nature of tension in the region. It is the United States that has to a large extent created this tension, and I declare: American officials are lying to their own people; they are lying when they say that they came here to preserve security. If they want to preserve security, then why are there so many ships? If they want to preserve security, then why drag in European fleets?

If they want to preserve security, then why force all European countries to become involved? If they want to preserve security, then why were they not able to preserve security? If they want to preserve security, then why did they not apply pressure on Iraq—who everybody agrees was the principal culprit—to stop striking the ships? There is a very simple way to preserve the security of ships in the Persian Gulf, and that is to instruct their mercenary, Iraq, which is under their own instructions, not to attack them. If Iraq does not attack, then security will be established. Everyone knows this. If the United States really wants to establish the security of both oil and nonoil shipping in the Persian Gulf, then the solution is right under their nose. Why do they not see this? It is clear they are lying. Therefore, the American people and the world public should realize they are lying, despite all their pretenses of telling the truth, when they say: No, we are telling the truth. In actuality, they are really saying the opposite. Therefore, they have other plans that our nation has fully discovered.

Of course, we have stated our positione on the issue of the Persian Gulf and on the question of the imposed war. These gentlemen on the Security Council have met again and discussed and remarked on certain things and approved certain things, which the news agencies have broadcast. We are saying, in a friendly way, to those gentlemen who meet in the Security Council, those with whom one can talk in a friendly way—as it is not always possible to talk in a friendly way with some of them who are not our friends—that we have outlined a method of implementing Resolution No 598. There is only one practical way to proceed on Resolution No 598, which we repeatedly stated during the secretary general's trip to Tehran, during the later negotiations in the Security Council, and in numerous meetings that Foreign Ministry officials have held. If the Security Council wants Resolution No 598 to be implemented, they must condemn Iraq as the instigator of the war and appoint a competent [Saleh] court to determine its punishment.

If they want the secretary general's efforts to achieve some results, if they really want Resolution No 598 to be implemented, then this is the way. There is no other way. Our nation is prepared, our fighters are ready. Our fighters say: If you punish the warmongering and aggressor Iraqi regime, very well then, punish her. However, if you do not punish her, then all of the Iranian people

from every strata are prepared to form a united, powerful hand with which they will grab Saddam by the throat and punish him themselves.

U.S. Helicopter Reportedly Hit 16 Oct

LD171129 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign aircraft must observe the security perimeter of the warships of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman; no country is exempt. Commodore Malekzadegan, Iran's Navy commander, has commented on the warning issued by an Iranian warship yesterday to a U.S. helicopter in the Persian Gulf. He said this morning: As we have already announced, foreign aircraft and helicopters are required to observe the 5-mile perimeter around Iranian warships in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. Otherwise, in view of the fact that the Persian Gulf is an area of conflict, our warships have no choice but to engage in firing in stages [marhale'i] against units violating the defense perimeter in order to defend themselves and thwart a possible threat.

Commodore Malekzadegan stressed: To avoid any incident, foreign aircraft and helicopters must choose their course avoiding the 5-mile security zone around Iranian naval craft in the area and carefully observe warnings issued by those naval craft.

It should be noted that a U.S. helicopter entered the defense perimeter of an Iranian warship in the Persian Gulf yesterday. After firing in its vicinity, the helicopter was forced to change course.

Foreign Ministry Warns U.S. on Retaliation

LD191052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Following the attack on a Kuwaiti ship under the U.S. flag and comments by U.S. officials on carrying out retaliatory actions against Iran, our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said: Any U.S. military aggression against Iran will certainly mark the beginning of an extensive clash in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, our principled policy is to confront any act which escalates tension, because this region belongs to our nation and other nations of the region, and we will decisively answer any new aggressive measure of the United States. Details of the remarks made by the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman will be carried at the end of this newscast.

Foreign Ministry Warning Detailed

LD191147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] We draw your attention to a report on a warning given to the United States by a Foreign Ministry spokesman on that country's retaliatory measures against Iran: Following the comments by American officials on retaliatory measures against Iran for the attack on a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti ship, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said: Any U.S. military aggression against Iran will certainly be the beginning of an extensive clash in the Persian Gulf. It demonstrates that the United States, for the sake of promoting its interventionist policies in the Persian Gulf, intends to set the region ablaze. This means that the United States is preparing itself for another Vietnam. The escalating tension, brought about by the presence of the warships of the United States and its Western allies, has left no doubt that the U.S. objective in dispatching the warships for the so-called safeguarding of shipping security has not only been ineffective, but also has endangered the security of the region more than any other time before. Under these circumstances, worldwide opposition against the aggressive presence of the United States and its tension-creating acts has drastically increased. In fact, by further escalating the tension, the United States intends to go against the prevailing political current in the world, which more than ever before understands the danger of the American presence and believes that its uncontrollable consequences will be catastrophic for global peace and security. Our principled policy is still to confront any act which escalates tension, because this region belongs to us and other nations of the region and we will decisively answer any new aggressive measure of the United States.

From the day the U.S. warships first arrived, the United States aggression was probable and predictable and we have prepared ourselves for it. The responsibility for the consequences of such a confrontation rests squarely on American shoulders. The countries of the region should note that the flame rising from any hostile action of the United States will be unlimited and engulf the entire region.

Besharati Comments on UN Resolution

LD181300 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—If the UN Security Council on the basis of existing documents is willing to condemn Iraq as the initiator of the war, Iran would be ready to accept a 'de facto' ceasefire on condition that simultaneously a court be held to brand Iraq as the aggressor, said the Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, in an interview with IRNA here Saturday night.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he reiterated, will not accept any sort of de facto ceasefire prior to identification of Iraq as the initiator of the war.

Further in the interview Besharati said that Iran has never ruled out political solutions to end the war which include principal viewpoints of Iran concerning trial of the aggressor. Rather, Iran has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the UN Security Council, he stressed.

Besharati said that the U.S. through its continuous plots has thwarted efforts of the UN chief to establish peace in the region. The U.S., as an oppressor, has always tried to impose peace on Iran by creating crisis on the one hand and encouraging Iraq to bombard Iranian cities and industrial centers on the other hand.

However, he emphasised, "The U.S. and all its allies should know that as their crimes mount, Iran's conditions for ending the war will become stricter."

The Muslim combatants of Iran, he added, are willing to teach "bitter and unforgettable" lessons to the U.S. and its allies. "Iran has decided to make the remainder of Reagan's term in office the most bitter period of his political life," he stressed.

In reply to a question on reaction of Iran to a court ruling which brands Iraq as the aggressor and also considers Iran as the one which has continued the war, Besharati said that such a logic is against all laws and protocols and the UN Charter and definitely no court will accept such a ruling.

Iran launched its defensive war for claiming back one-sixty fifth of the Iranian territory, equal to Qatar, Singapore, Maldives and Lebanon put together.

Therefore, the act of Iraq was aggression and what Iran did was to defend itself which is accepted in all religions and schools. What Iran did was an honourable act, however, the world oppressors do not want to accept this reality so easily.

On statements made by world politicians including the U.S. officials who have frankly called Iraq as the initiator of the war, Besharati said that at least some 60 world leaders in their meetings with Iranian and non-Iranian officials have referred to Iraq as the aggressor. Moreover, on the strength of existing documents it will be an easy task to brand Iraq as the initiator of the war, Besharati added.

Besharati concluded that in the light of new elbow-room and powers given to UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, by the Security Council for execution of the UN resolution 598 De Cuellar is shortly to visit Tehran and Baghdad.

Cabinet Sees Resolution as Step to Peace

LD181303 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] During today's Cabinet session, which was chaired by Interior Minister Mohtashemi, the country's political developments were discussed. This was followed by a Foreign Ministry report submitted to the Cabinet on the recent Security Council decisions. Reiterating the point of placing responsibility for the war on the Iraqi regime, the Cabinet called this the first step towards establishing peace and security in the region.

According to our correspondent's report, during the session Mr Iravani, the minister of economy and finance, submitted a report on the country's financial status for the first 6 months of the year. The report cites an overall increase in government revenues of 26 percent, compared with a similar period last year, part of which is due to the 5.5 percent increase in direct taxes.

The Cabinet also heard a report on the return of the bodies of the 55 martyrs of bloody Friday in Mecca. While expressing their regret at the delay in the delivery of the bodies by the regime ruling over the Hijaz, the Cabinet honored the memory of the martyrs of that tragedy and prayed to God Almighty to give patience and reward to their families.

U.S. Chopper Attack Victims Welcomed Home

LD172002 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 17 Oct 87

["Victims of Unprovoked U.S. Chopper Attack Welcomed Home"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Four injured Muslim combatants along with the bodies of two of their companions, martyred during the U.S. helicopters' attack on three Iranian speed boats in the Persian Gulf waters on Oct. 8, were transfered to Tehran Saturday evening.

Some ministers, a group of Majlis representatives and Army commanders welcomed the injured and paid homage to the martyrs at the airport.

The injured combatants carried on stretchers suffer burns in the face and limbs. Physicians advised the wounded against giving an interview.

A large groups of people from all walks of life were at the airport to welcome the combatants chanting 'Down with the U.S.' slogans.

IRGC Navy Chief on 'Torture'

NC180744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The pure bodies of two martyrs, as well as four persons who were wounded during the savage attack by the U.S. helicopters on Iranian boats on 8 October, were flown to Tehran from Oman last night. [passage omitted]

In an interview with our correspondent at Mehrabad International Airport, Mr Alai'e, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy, revealed the various acts of torture and savagery that had been inflicted by the U.S. Marines on these fighters. He said: Those Marines who have come to this area were so terrified of our heroic fighters that they started to torture them with kicks and blows immediately after their arrest and although they were wounded. They then took them on board their ship and continued their torment. Our

four fighters were the victims of both physical and psychological torture. He stated: They fired a bullet into the arm of one of the brothers and stuck a 10-cm-long nail into the body of another who was tied and bound, and then removed the nail after some time. Also, the worst kinds of torture, unprecedented in the history of mankind, were carried out on these brothers by the world-devouring Americans. He added: Their hands nad feet were kept tied until they were transferred to the aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Prime Minister Heads Delegation to Syria

NC180600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi left for Damascus this morning on an official visit to Syria.

Mr Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Mr Besharati, deputy foreign minister; and Mr Mo'ayyeri, the prime minister's deputy for political affairs, are accompanying Mr Musavi on his trip. The prime minister was invited by the prime minister of fraternal Syria.

Before leaving Tehran, the prime minister told our correspondent: The visit to Syria is taking place at the invitation of the Syrian prime minister. Under the present circumstances, this visit holds a special meaning. We will discuss various issues, such as the Persian Gulf war and American plots in the region. During this visit we will expand our practical relations as necessary.

Meets Khamene'i Prior to Visit

LD171534 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi met President 'Ali Khamene'i on the eve of his visit to Syria, here today.

Tehran-Damascus mutual interests, which are to be discussed during Musavi's visit to Syria, were reviewed in the meeting. Musavi is to leave for Syria on Sunday.

Interviewed Before Departure

LD181556 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent on 18 October prior to departure for Syria; place not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, please tell us what objectives the Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing by your trip to Syria, and what new results will be achieved in Iran's relations with Syria.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This visit, which is taking place at the invitation of the honorable Syrian prime minister, has a special meaning in the present circumstances. We have had very friendly and sincere relations with Syria and we have constantly exchanged opinions on international and regional issues. In the present state of affairs, there is a specific problem in the region with regard to the war, to the Persian Gulf, and to the United States' plots. All of these issues will be discussed with the Syrian brothers.

Moreover, there are many issues to be discussed on mutual relations. We have tried to expand relations over these past years in order to provide them with a practical basis. Fortunately, we have made progress in this connection. Of course, with regard to issues concerning the world of Islam, Palestine, and Lebanon, it is natural that all of these issues will be discussed during this trip and, God willing, some cooperation will be achieved.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, the United States has started a new phase in the Persian Gulf and it seems that the situation is becoming more acute. What will be the Islamic Republic of Iran's response to these latest events?

[Musavi] The United States is trying to follow a policy of intimidation in the region; this is a mistake. Our nation is awake; our nation was not intimidated by the superpowers in 1978 [year of Islamic uprising before the revolution] and the Americans will not succeed with this policy. We shall pursue a policy of blow for blow against any country—be it one country, two countries or all the global arrogance countries. We shall pursue this policy under all circumstances and of course, as far as our capabilities dictate.

Naturally, we know that our capabilities are not vast, but we have huge manpower resources. Our people's faith is strong and we have shown that we are able to strongly retaliate in order to obtain the necessary political results. In any case, it is clear that whatever price our nation has to pay, our nation has no intention whatsoever of returning to evil values [taghuti] or of following the big powers and the great Satan, the United States. Our nation will stand up against the United States, and we warn the American people that they should not allow a group of mad statesmen to again drag the American people into a battlefield, a quagmire, the consequences of which can only result in Americans perishing in the Persian Gulf or on the fronts.

We have repeatedly declared that the Islamic Revolution belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran and has many supporters all over the world. It also had widespread resources all over the world. In any widescale clash these potential resources will naturally be used and will become active.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers it has a right to confront a superpower that goes beyond its borders, comes from the other side of the world and creates mischief here, approaches our borders, creates tension, stands alongside Saddam Husayn, and takes sides in the conflict. Whereever possible we shall deal it blows. Of course, we hope that the situations will not deteriorate to this point; we are not seeking that. However, if it should happen, we shall fight.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, on the eve of the Arab League conference on the Persian Gulf issue and Palestine, can you comment on the probable shift of positions adopted by the southern Persian Gulf states following the development of [words indistinct], and how do you see these shifts?

[Musavi] We do not have an exact idea of the situaiton. However, we state our own policies. We have repeatedly advised these countries, as you know, that the arrival of the superpowers is not in their interest; now they are beginning to see this. We have some indications that some countries are concerned. We again state that the presence of these forces, this crisis, will not harm us. We are a great and faithful nation, a revolution, a united nation and people. We may receive some blows; we have suffered some damage. However, as all have seen, such damage further strengthens us. Most of all, their presence and the crisis will harm them and can create crises in all these countries. A more dangerous situation will exist in these countries than before.

We always pray that these countries will come to their senses and realize that the arch Satan has dragged them into a bad situation. We hope that they will quickly reject this. We see some realism surfacing in some of these countries and this makes us happy. Some others are maintaining their position and they have suffered the most because of this and will continue to suffer.

Velayati Heads Delegation to Cuba, Nicaragua

NC170542 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, left for Cuba and Nicaragua this morning at the head of a political delegation for talks with officials of the two countries. The report adds that during his meetings with the high-ranking Cuban and Nicaraguan officials, Mr Velayati will discuss the expansion of bilateral relations, recent developments in the Persian Gulf, and especially the tension created by America's presence, the three countries' cooperation in the Nonaligned Movement, and the movement's upcoming conference.

Interviewed on Frankfurt Stopover

NC180633 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, granted an interview to our colleague at the Frankfurt airport during his stopover on his way to Cuba and Nicaragua. He discussed the objectives behind this visit and the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the recent tensions in the Persian Gulf and on Iraq's war against Iran. We invite you to listen to our report:

[Begin recorded telephone report by unidentified correspondent] On his way to Cuba and Nicaragua, Foreign Minister Velayati made a stopover at Frankfurt airport and granted us an exclusive interview. On the objectives behind the trip to Cuba and Nicaragua, he said: These two countries cooperate closely with us on bilateral relations and international issues. Cooperation with them is of special importance, particularly within the framework of the Islamic Republic's activities in the Nonaligned Movement. The recent stands by the Nonaligned Movement on the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf have been positive, and we are continuing our contacts with this movement. He added: Part of this trip is related to the presence and activities of the United States and of some of its allies in the Persian Gulf. In view of the fact that Iran is one of the major countries in the Nonaligned Movement, as well as the fact that the Persian Gulf area belongs to the Third World and almost all countries in this region are members of the Nonaligned Movement, it is necessary for this organization to be informed of the recent developments in the region so that it can formulate its policies in the future and act accordingly.

Regarding Iran's stand on the recent UN Security Council resolution, Mr Velayati said: Our position on the efforts by the Security Council and the United Nations has been clear from the very beginning, and we hold the same position as before. If international organizations, particularly the Security Council, show a just and respectable approach, Iran will approve the resolution. If not, any solution that does not include the recognition and punishment of the aggressor will not be accepted by us. This is a point which the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated from the beginning and still advocates.

Our foreign minister then mentioned the missile attack on a Kuwaiti tanker flying the U.S. flag: We have repeatedly stated that the presence of foreign forces in this sensitive area can only lead to tension. What happened was foreseeable. If the Americans and other foreign forces who have an active military presence understand this bitter reality, we can be optimistic for the future of the region. However, if they continue to entertain their past misgivings, it must be said that they will learn more lessons in the future. The Persian Gulf is an extremely sensitive and important area, and any foreign intervention which creates tension there will not benefit anyone in the world. Persian Gulf security is the responsibility of regional countries and, from the beginning, we have stated that we will not allow any foreign power to interfere in this region. Our position now is the same as it was; what has happened proves that the Islamic Republic of Iran was correct. We believe that the Persian

Gulf needs complete calm in which all cargo ships and tankers can enjoy complete security. International waterways should be free from harm and navigation should be carried out freely.

The main element of tension is the Iraqis, who started the tanker war. We have repeatedly announced, and it has also been proved in actions, that when the Iraqis stop their attacks on ships in the Persian Gulf, all conflicts and tensions will cease to exist. General calm and security will return to the region. Mr Velayati added: Unfortunately, Iraq's mentors did not pay attention to this, although experience has shown that if they exert pressure on Iraq from all sides to stop its mischiefs, everything will be solved, thus eliminating the need to bring foreign forces into the region. Certainly, those who made possible the arrival of foreign warships in the Persian Gulf are not happy with what they did because the region has been set on fire, the smoke of which is blinding their own eyes.

The issue of war is separate from Persian Gulf security. Iraq should be recognized and punished as a country that began the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have stated from the beginning that we do not want the war to spread in the region or to other countries. Moreover, we continue to stress our position now. A country has attacked us and we will punish it.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bonn. [end recording]

Libyan Envoy Holds Talks With Rafiqdust

LD171705 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] The special envoy of the Libyan leader who arrived in Tehran last night, met with Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust this morning to discuss issues of interest to the two countries, the forthcoming Arab summit, and Persian Gulf developments.

During the meeting, the Libyan leader's envoy condemned the plots hatched by arrogance and the two countries' common enemies and declared the support of the Libyan people and leader for the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

He also stressed the importance of serious confrontation with the United states by regional nations and progressive regimes.

Stressing Iran's rightful and just stands against the warmongering regime of Iraq, Mr Rafiqdust said that the naming and punishing of the aggressor is the only way to ease tension in the region.

Describing the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf and the threats to the region owing to the presence of U.S. fleets, the Guards Corps minister emphasized the firm resolve of the Iranian nation and other Muslim nations in the region to resist and persevere in the face of the plots hatched by the criminal and aggressor United States.

Received by Khamene'i

LD181730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Zayd 'Umar Durdah, special envoy of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, was this evening received by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. During the meeting, the Libyan leader's envoy delivered a special message from Al-Qadhdhafi and said: The Libyan leader offers his warmest greetings to Your Excellency and hopes for a victory by the Muslim nation of Iran against the conspiracies of global arrogance. He stressed: The Libyan leader has always believed that a victory by the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran is a victory by the people of Libya.

He then briefed our country's president on the views of the Libyan leadership on issues of common interest between the two countries and on regional issues, in particular the Persian Gulf. He stressed: The Libyan leadership believes that the presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf region is a conspiracy against Islam and against the Islamic ideology of the Islamic nation of Iran. It also believes that the progressive states should decisively stand against this conspiracy using practical measures.

Mr Khamene'i expressed his gratitude for the warm message from Al-Qadhdhafi and stressed the need for greater solidarity among the Muslim and progressive states in the face of increasing (?conspiracies) by major powers.

Petroleum Minister Comments on Moscow Visit

NC181002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Our petroleum minister, Mr Aqazadeh, who went to Moscow at the head of an economic and oil delegation, returned to Tehran last night. An economic protocol was signed during the visit between Mr Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iran's petroleum minister, and Mr Katyushev, member of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Cooperation.

Upon his arrival from Moscow, Mr Aqazadeh stated that the protocol includes (?studies by experts on the technical aspects) of [words indistinct] Iranian oil to the Soviet Union, as well as the [words indistinct] of crude oil between the two countries.

We invite you to listen to an interview with our petroleum minister on the outcome of his trip to the Soviet Union:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Aqazadeh, please comment on the outcome of your visit to he Soviet Union, as well as on your talks with the Soviet officials.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. The objective behind the visit was to discuss (?two) important issues on which agreement was reached. One was the transfer of up to (?1) million barrels of crude oil from the Soviet territory to the Black Sea. Before the talks, it was agreed that a committee would carry out the (?necessary studies) to determine if the plan is (?economical) and on how the plan can be implemented. It will then submit a report to [words indistinct]. This committee will begin its work soon and will carry out the necessary studies on the spot. We hope it will achieve positive results.

The second and new topic concerned the delivery of 100,000 barrels of crude oil, which can be increased up to 200,000 barrels, to the Soviet Union through the Mazandaran sea route and to receive the commodities needed by us from the same route. (?The framework) for this was agreed on (?previously), and pricing, [words indistinct] should be carried out in the ports of Nowshahr, Anzali, and [words indistinct]. The main framework for the (?transport of goods) has almost been completed. This led to the signing of the protocol, which fully outlines future activities both as far as the pipeline and commodities are concerned, and details necessary to implement the agreement.

A third and general topic of discussion concerned bilateral relations, regional political issues, and other issues of interest to both countries. The outcome of these talks was good.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Aqazadeh] You are welcome. [end recording]

Last Mecca 'Massacre' Bodies Arrive 17 Oct

LD172023 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Bodies of the remaining 59 Iranian hajj martyrs of the July 31 Mecca massacre were transfered to Tehran Saturday, along with the two seriously-injured pilgrims, one of whom still in a coma.

Kin of the martyrs who went to Hijaz earlier this week were able to identify all but four of the bodies kept in mortuaries by the Saudi regime despite the repeated urging of Iran for their transfer.

The Riyadh government had allowed only one member of each of the martyr's families to come to Jeddah to identify the bodies. The four bodies which have been battered beyond recognition are expected to be identified by the family members of Tehran.

At Tehran's Mehrabad Airport high-ranking government officials, including ministers of culture and Islamic guidance, of roads and transport and of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), as well as deputy prime minister, acting foreign minister, head of Hajj organization and the head of Iranian hajj pilgrims paid homage to the martyrs. Head of hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, told IRNA that the 59 martyrs transferred to the Islamic Republic today were the last remaining bodies in Hijaz of the fateful Mecca carnage.

Hundreds of Iranian and non-Iranian hajj pilgrims were martyred and thousands of others wounded when Saudi police systematically blocked the way of peaceful marchers in Mecca and then suddenly burst upon them with clubs, eventually mowing them down with machine guns and hurling suffocating gas cannisters at them.

The attack on the hajj pilgrims near the sanctuary of the Holy Ka'bah where even the killing of an animal, let alone manslaughter and brutality is divinely prohibited, unveiled the real face of the anti-Islamic Saudi regime.

People from all walks of life in different parts of the world expressed condemnation for the crime masterminded by the U.S. and implemented by the Saudi wahabi regime.

Funeral To Be Held 18 Oct

LD172059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] The Martyr's Foundation issued a statement announcing: The bodies of the 55 martyrs of the bloody Mecca tragedy, that were brought to Tehran this afternoon, will be taken from Ark Mosque toward the bazaar and 15th Khordad Avenue, at 1000 tomorrow, Sunday.

The statement invites the martyr-nurturing people of Tehran to attend the funeral of these martyrs.

Ceremony Detailed

LD181112 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The pure bodies of 55 martyrs of bloody Friday in Mecca, who attained the lofty status of martydrom at the hands of the U.S. subservient regime of Al Sa'ud during a march of disavowal, were carried from the Mosque of the Ark in Tehran this morning in the presence of multitudes of the Hezbollah people.

According to our correspondent, the ceremony, which was organized by the Martyrs' Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, was attended by the representative of Imam Karrubi, supervisor of the Iranian hajj pilgrims, a number of Majlis deputies, state and military officials, as well as the esteemed families of the martyrs, the POW's, and those missing in action, and also throngs of the Hezbollah people. The ceremony expressed the aversion and the

repulsion felt by the participants for the inhuman act committed by the Al Sa'ud regime, by chanting "Death to the United States" and "Death to the Al Sa'ud regime.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

3 Iraqi Planes Downed 17 Oct

LD181207 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—Iraqi Ba'thist regime in a military communique released in Baghdad Saturday admitted that one of its warplanes was shot down over the Iranian airspace.

Iran's anti-aircraft fire shot down three Iraqi warplanes in western and southern parts of the country at 11:15 hours, 12:0 hours and 12:25 hours local time Saturday.

Communique No 2,991

LD161727 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters pounded Iraq's Arbat garrison in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province this morning, inflicting heavy losses on it. All planes returned safely to bases, said a military communique here today.

Joint Staff Communique No. 2991 said that Iran's naval forces in addition to controlling limited movements of Iraqi gunboats near Al-'Amayah platform and Al-Faw-Umm Qasr road with their coastal artillery fire, searched five foreign vessels in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, but allowed them to sail on since no Iraq-destined cargo was found on board them.

Exchange of artillery fire continued somehwat more heavily in Zayd and Bubiyan operational theaters, where an Iraqi munitions dump, three military vehicles, several heavy guns and a motor pool were destroyed and at least 21 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

Artillery fire of the Muslim combatants suppressed an Iraqi patrol unit in Yebis and halted Iraqi motorized movements in Chazabeh operational regions.

The communique said a vehicle and some 60 gun emplacements and watch posts of the Iraqi troops were set afire and a number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded when their positions in part of the western and southern fronts came under artillery fire of Iranian gendarmerie forces.

Iraqi warplanes violated air spaces of Piranshahr, Sardasht in Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province, Sanandaj in Kordestan Province and Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province six times on Thursday, but fled when facing anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian forces, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Mirage Reported Downed

NC161711 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Dear viewers, please pay attention to a news report that we have just received in the studio. The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced that in an aerial skirmish which took place at 1959 hours [1629 GMT] in the Persian Gulf between our airplanes and those of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, an enemy Mirage was downed. Our planes returned safely to their bases.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Villages

LD171612 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed three villages near Baneh town, Kordestan Province, before noon Saturday.

One of the attacking enemy planes was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. Search for the wreckage of the plane, and its pilot is underway.

Iraq Prevents Cities' Evacuation

LD171628 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Oct. 17, IRNA—The Iraqi Government has prevented Baghdad's inhabitants from leaving the city to safe places in Karbala', Al-Najaf, Kadhemain and Samarra in defiance of Iran's call to the Iraqis to do so for their own protection.

On Friday Iran's War Information Headquarter in Tehran called on the inhabitants of all Iraqi cities to evacuate the peripheries of industrial and military centers in all Iraqi cities except for the four cities which Iran has spared from attacks since the outbreak of the war. Iraqi police on highways leading to the four cities prevent travel to those cities.

The Iraqi regime on Friday announced on unscheduled census taking to be conducted in Baghdad, and called on the people to stay where they are.

Communique No 2,992

LD171653 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17 IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire when a number of enemy aircraft violated the airspace of Baneh and its nearby areas in Kordestan Province about noon Saturday, said a military communique here today.

The 292nd Joint Staff Communique said that an Iraqi 'Mirage' fighter was shot down by Iranian warplanes over the southern waters at 19:59 hours local time (16:29 GMT) Friday.

Iran's navy gunboats intercepted and searched six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Iranian artillery inflicted heavy losses on a group of Iraqi tanks in Sumar and the Majnun Islands, western and southern sectors, Friday, silencing their fire.

In the southern fronts, several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts and two vehicles were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Friday.

Iraqi engineering units, operating in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, western fronts, sustained heavy casualties and losses and were forced to leave the region by Iranian artillery fire Friday.

The artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked movement of a number of Iraqi trucks carrying ammunition in Helaleh, western sector, Friday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Junejo Refutes Gandhi Charge on Siachen

BK181146 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has expressed the firm resolve of his government and the people of Pakistan to uphold the rule of law in the country at all costs. He was inaugurating the conference of the chief justices of Southeast Asia and Western Pacific countries in Islamabad today. The prime minister said judicial preoccupation with procedural technicalities contributes to (?congestion) in the courts, increases costs of litigation, and sometimes creates public dissatisfaction with the administration of justice. He expressed the hope that the conference will make valuable contribution to the common goal of providing the people quick, easy, and inexpensive justice.

Talking informally to newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister reiterated Pakistan's position to have a peaceful settlement of the Siachen [Glacier] dispute with India and asked it to withdraw its forces to the 1970 position.

To a question, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo refuted the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's charge that Pakistan had attacked Indian positions in Siachen. He said Pakistan never attacks first. In fact, it was India which had committed unprovoked aggression by occupying an area which had not been demarcated.

National Assembly Passes Special Courts Bill

BK160545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The National Assembly passed a bill for the establishment of special courts for the speedy trial of serious crimes. The National Assembly, which continued its deliberations until early morning today, has been adjourned indefinitely. The extended session went on for 14 hours with short breaks. Eight amendments to the bill, moved by Federal Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Wasim Sajjad, were adopted to accommodate suggestions that had emerged from general discussion on the bill and from the justice minister's consultations with members from both sides of the Assembly. The legislation will remain in force for a period of 1 year and may be extended for a similar term through a resolution by the legislature.

According to the bill, the special courts will try cases relating to murder, robbery, highway robbery, and kidnapping, which are tyrannical and barbaric in nature and may give rise to indignation, panic, and disorder among the people. The special courts will be empowered to conduct direct trial in any one of these cases. Hearings will be held every day without adjournment, except in cases in which an adjournment becomes necessary for meeting the requirements of justice. However, the period of this adjournment will not exceed 2 days. If the accused deliberately remains absent or tries to impede justice, the special courts will be empowered to try him in absentia. Appeals against verdicts of special courts can be filed to the high courts and the final appeal to the Supreme Court. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

LTTE, IPKF Battle for Jaffna Continues

400,000 Residents Depart

BK160957 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0945 GMT 16 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 16 (*Lanka Puwath*)—As the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] offensive continued into its sixth day to clear the Jaffna town and its environs of the LTTE which reneged on its pledge to adhere to the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord and embarked on a wave of wanton violence in northern and eastern Sri Lanka the remaining residents of Jaffna town were reported moving in large numbers into refugee camps in order to facilitate IPKF ridding Jaffna of the LTTE and restoring peace and normalcy, Jaffna sources told *Lanka Puwath* this afternoon.

They said that there were ample stocks of food and medicinal supplies in refugee camps around Jaffna town.

Residents totalling about 400,000 had availed themselves of these facilities and left their homes temporarily in order to assist in bringing peace and normalcy speedily. There were some who preferred to remain voluntarily while there had been still others who had been forced to do so by LTTE at the point of a gun.

However, the military strength of the IPKF had set LTTE resistance into disarray and this resulted in many citizens of Jaffna moving into refugee camps where they are well provided for.

507 Tamil Killed So Far

BK161710 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1653 GMT 16 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 16 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Over 500 LTTE terrorists have been killed by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) during its six day operation to secure Jaffna and clear it of the Tigers.

This evening an Indian High Commission spokesman said at a briefing of newsmen that 127 LTTE terrorists had been killed in the last 24 hours.

Referring to reports that there was a lull in fighting caused by a call by the LTTE for a ceasefire the spokesman said that in no way will the Indian Government agree to cease its offensive against the LTTE in the north and east of Sri Lanka, unless it accepted the peace accord unreservedly and the surrender of all arms unconditionally .

The spokesman stressed that the IPKF operation was continuing.

He also said that the LTTE's second in command, Mahendrarajah (more notoriously known as Ajit Mahatthaya) had handed over a written appeal to Mr Balasubramaniam of the Jaffna Red Cross addressed to "whomsover it may concern" the text of which reads: "We want an immediate ceasefire."

The spokesman said the "ceasefire" message had also been sent to the Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, the Tamil Nadu chief minister Mr M G Ramachandran and the opposition leader of Tamil Nadu who is also the leader of the DMK, Mr Karunanidhi.

Nowhere in the LTTE message does it state the acceptance of the peace accord unreservedly and the surrender of arms unconditionally and therefore the question of ceasefire does not arise, the spokesman said.

The spokesman added that the messages from the LTTE may have been sent because of the military pressure that is mounting against the LTTE or to gain time to regroup their scattered fighters or a ploy to escape to other parts of the country to foment violence or spurious attempts to safeguard Tamil people.

Outlining the progress made by the IPKF the spokesman said that the IPKF are securing and consolidating their positions and are moving forward. Urumpirai is under IPKF control. There was fierce resistance by the LTTE before this LTTE strong-hold fell to the IPKF. From Urumpirai the Indian Peace Keeping Force is advancing to Uduvil and Sudumalai. Outside the Jaffna Fort there is intermittent fighting but the IPKF has advanced to about 500 metres and setting up road blocks.

About 200 Tamils who congregated near the Trincomalee town hall, eastern Sri Lanka, expressed grief at the landmine blast that killed IPKF troops yesterday and requested the IPKF not to go back.

(According to the Indian High Commission figures given at press briefings to date, 507 LTTE terrorists have been killed, and Indian casualties, are 80 dead, 282 wounded.)

Leaflets dropped over Jaffna urging people to leave the Jaffna town has got ready response and large numbers are heading towards safer areas. [sentence as received]

Prabhakaran Vows To Fight On

BK161534 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Madras, India, Oct 16 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Tamil separatist leader Velupillai Prabhakaran has vowed to continue the war against Indian troops even if his estimated 3,000 fighters run out of weapons, Tamil sources said here Friday.

Mr. Prabhakaran, holed up in Jaffna town, reportedly told some Indian soldiers captured by his Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group that his guerrillas could battle on even if their arsenal is depleted.

"Indian soldiers have not seen a real war since 1971 when some of our boys were not even born," he said, referring to the India-Pakistan war which led to the creation of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

"But they (LTTE guerrillas) have been in uniform and fighting the Sri Lankan Army successfully for the last four years," he was quoted as saying by the sources in Madras, where all Tamil militant groups have offices.

"The Indian Army may have unlimited arms," he added. "We may soon run out of arms and ammunition. But we know how to fight the war."

It was not known when Mr. Prabhakaran spoke to the soldiers, some 18 of whom are reported to be in LTTE's custody.

'Crack' LTTE Unit Destroyed

BK161547 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1540 GMT 16 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) yesterday wiped out a crack LTTE terrorist group in Jaffna led by one of its senior commanders, code-named "Nawaas". Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* last night that a security intercept from the LTTE leadership in Jaffna to its other area groups from a radio transmitter code-named "November-Serra" stated that the IPKF had dealt another severe blow by wiping out one of its crack terrorist cadres led by "Nawaas".

Meanwhile, the LTTE's Batticaloa area military commander Karuna who had been called to Jaffna had returned to Batticaloa according to intelligence sources.

IPKF Consolidates Position

BK170329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has consolidated its position around Jaffna following the capture of the LTTE's stronghold at Urumpirai. At Kopai North, 5 km from Jaffna, the force repulsed an attack by the LTTE men. They also captured railway and road junctions in the southern part of Jaffna. Two peacekeeping force vehicles were damaged in firing by the LTTE. Power supply in the Jaffna city is cut off to avoid loss of life, as the LTTE is using sophisticated electrical booby traps and explosive devices connected to the domestic power circuits. These would go up just by pressing the domestic power switch. A spokesman of the peacekeeping force said in Jaffna area that the LTTE is responsible for the present situation in Sri Lanka. He said it indulged in wanton killings of fellow Tamils, Muslims, and Sinhalese and even attacked the peacekeeping force personnel.

IPKF Tightens 'Grip'

BK171609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has tightened its grip around Jaffna town. Our correspondent in Jaffna reports that in the fighting during the last 24 hours, a number of casualties have been reported. The peacekeeping force destroyed an explosives dump in Navatkuli area. It has started flushing out operations near the fort area of Jaffna. In Kopai North area, the peacekeeping force repulsed a number of attacks by the LTTE and caused a number of casualties. An official spokesman said in New Delhi, that the situation in Batticaloa and Trincomalee in the Eastern Province is under control. The Tamil citizens took out a peace procession from Trincomalee town to Nilaveli, pledging full support for the peacekeeping force. They also appreciated the impartial way in which the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement is being implemented and appealed to the LTTE to give up their fight. Thousands of men, women, and children took part in the procession.

101 Indians Killed So Far

BK180126 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0110 GMT 18 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Indian Peacekeeping Force has lost 101 of its men in seven days of battle in Jaffna, an official of the Indian High Commission told a press briefing this evening in Colombo.

The IPKF has strengthened its positions, and was poised to move forward.

The official also said that the number of terrorists killed in this offensive was 515.

Yesterday an IPKF vehicle hit a landmine on the Tellipalai/Mallakam road killing two IPKF soldiers and injuring four and at Navatkuli five IPKF personnel were killed in a booby trap mishap.

There is intermittent fighting in Urumpirai and Navatkuli. The LTTE has begun to snipe at the IPKF from machans (make-shift platforms).

Around the Jaffna Fort the IPKF are strengthening roadblocks.

In the eastern sector of Sri Lanka the LTTE is engaged in the laying of mines.

The IPKF is clearing roads and has intensified its foot and vehicle patrol.

In the Batticaloa town, five LTTE terrorists were arrested by the IPKF. One of the terrorists, Shashi Kumar, committed suicide by swallowing a cyanide capsule.

The High Commission official also said that the refugees in Mutur in the Eastern Province are provided relief measures by the IPKF from the holdings of the IPKF.

A 32-member team from the Indian Red Cross has been flown into Jaffna from Delhi which will be followed by relief supplies by ship from the port of Madras to Kankesanturai, on Monday.

Answering a question, the official emphatically denied charges of rape levelled against some IPKF soldiers. The official dismissed the allegations in one simple word: "canards".

Part of Fort Captured

BK180330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has reached the outskirts of Jaffna town from all directions. It is now moving toward Jaffna after successfully consolidating their positions near the railroad junction. The force, which had already captured 500 to 1,000 meters of the fort, strengthened their positions by putting up roadblocks and sending out probing operations for LTTE positions. House-to-house (?steering) operations are also on. On the Kankesanthurai-Jaffna sector, the forces moved further down Manippai and are now about half a kilometer away from the town. In the Arai-Jaffna section, it has reached the outskirts of the town. In Urumpirai, the force successfully repulsed every attempt made by the LTTE to recapture the stronghold and inflicted heavy casualties on the LTTE. In the Kopai North area, also the peacekeeping force repulsed repeated attacks by the LTTE. In the fighting the force suffered some casualties.

The All India Radio correspondent reporting from Jaffna understands that some of the LTTE leaders made unsuccessful attempts yesterday night to escape from Jaffna. When last reports came in, fierce battles between the peacekeeping force and the LTTE were going on on all fronts. In the Eastern Province, the force cleared mines laid by the LTTE in Batticaloa and Amparai Districts.

The situation in Batticaloa and Trincomalee is under control.

Resistance 'Crumbling'

BK180702 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0630 GMT 18 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Latest reports received by *Lanka Puwath* state that the Indian Peacekeeping Forces (IPKF) are now moving swiftly into Jaffna town from all fronts.

They had already captured the eastern sector from the LTTE terrorists and were very close to Jaffna.

On the western front the IPKF moving from Manipay were only half a kilometre from the Jaffna town.

On the other fronts too they were advancing swiftly.

The report states that at Kankesanthurai (KKS), where the Indian troops were meeting with stiff resistance from the LTTE, reinforcements have been moved in and the Indians were on the march again from KKS to Jaffna.

The LTTE had launched five abortive attacks on Kopai (North) last Thursday while the sixth was launched on Friday night and here too the LTTE had been beaten decisively and forced to retreat.

According to informed sources present indications were that the LTTE resistance in Jaffna town would collapse very shortly.

The Indian troops were advancing towards the centre of Jaffna after having earlier consolidated their positions at road and railway junctions in Sri Lanka's northern capital.

Although still locked in heavy combat in certain areas the IPKF was moving forward rapidly and the stiff resistance was now crumbling.

The IPKF was carrying out house to house sweeps for terrorists.

LTTE Stronghold Destroyed

BK180852 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0839 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Here is a report just received from Colombo. The peacekeeping force destroyed LTTE's stronghold northeast of Jaffna Fort today. The force is continuing flushing out LTTE cadres in the area occupied by them in the Jaffna town. Fierce fighting is reported in (Gopinath) town.

13 More Indians Killed

BK181432 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 18 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil militants killed 13 more Indian soldiers as the peacekeeping force completed a ground encirclement of the guerrilla stronghold of northern Jaffna town, an official said here Sunday.

Thirty-nine other Indian troops were reported wounded and one missing since late Saturday as 6,000 Indian soldiers pushed their way towards Jaffna to disarm guerrillas of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The latest count pushed the Indian toll in two weeks of bitter fighting to 93 dead. More than 500 LTTE fighters have also died, while Indian sources have refused to give civilian casualties.

(Reports from Colombo late Sunday put the Indian death toll at 102 with more than 330 wounded.) [passage omitted]

IPKF Advancing 'On All Flanks'

BK181437 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1430 GMT 18 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Troops of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) are moving forward steadily on all flanks. They have strengthened road blocks outside the environs of the Jaffna Fort, consolidated their positions on the other flanks and have moved into the Jaffna town via the Navatkuli-Jaffna road.

These were reported by an official of the Indian High Commission at a press briefing in Colombo, this evening.

The troops of the IPKF have overrun several LTTE strongholds despite exercising restraint.

The IPKF is not using heavy weaponry and their progress is slowed down by the human shields of men and women.

The LTTE terrorists have heavily mined the roads. The LTTE also snipes at the IPKF from behind the lines.

The IPKF destroyed a LTTE explosives dump on the Navatkuli-Jaffna road.

A landmine blast injured four IPKF personnel.

With one IPKF personnel killed in yesterday's engagements the casualty list goes up to 102 IPKF killed.

The total number of LTTE terrorists killed in this 8-day offensive is 527.

At Batticaloa the IPKF is also engaged in landmine clearing operations and at Trincomalee where refugees have started to return to their homes, the IPKF provides escort.

Distribution and transportation of food to refugee camps are carried out under the armed escort of the IPKF.

Kopai North Stronghold Captured

BK181605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1542 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Here is a flash: In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force, in a major success, captured headquarters of the LTTE at Kopai North after heavy fighting this evening. A large quantity of explosives, arms, and ammunition were captured from them. About 1 ton of explosives from dump was also seized.

IPKF Enters Jaffna

BK181624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force today entered Jaffna town after a 9-day operation, and began clearing LTTE men of the area in a house-to-house search.

An Indian High Commission spokesman told newsmen in Colombo this evening, that the peacekeeping force entered the town from the Navatkuli side and from the other two sectors. On Kankesanturai road and Navatkuli area, the forces are attacking the LTTE and house-to-house fighting is on. An ammunition dump of the LTTE in the Navatkuli sector has been destroyed, and the forces have made progress overcoming stiff resistance along the three fronts, including Manippai-Jaffna sector. In the fort area inside Jaffna, the peacekeeping force has made dents in the LTTE defense amidst heavy attacks from fortified positions.

The spokesman said, during the operation in the 24 hours, 12 LTTE militants were killed. One peacekeeping force man died and 36 injured, four of them in a land mine blast. He said a large number of civilians are rushing out of the town.

In Trincomalee, the LTTE yesterday gunned down one civilian and injured another. The spokesman claimed that a large number of refugees are returning home and the peacekeeping force is providing them with escort. Night curfew in the district continues.

In Batticaloa, 37 suspects arrested earlier by the peacekeeping force have been released.

Describing the situation there, an official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi that the peacekeeping force is now poised to link up with the besieged (?fort) at Jaffna town from both the eastern and western side of the town. The spokesman said once the linkup with the Jaffna Fort is over, the LTTE would have no option but to surrender along with their arms and ammunition. He said the LTTE is now desperately trying to move arms and ammunition into Jaffna by boat from their hidden caches in the Jaffna lagoon, but their movements by night are being stopped by naval patrol boats.

The spokesman said over 1,000 civilians have approached the peacekeeping force to get them out of Jaffna town and arrangements are being made for their evacuation.

Some LTTE Desert

BK190307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force in a major success has captured the headquarters of the LTTE at Kopai North after heavy fighting. A large quantity of

explosives and arms and ammunition were recovered. The peacekeeping force has also seized one of the biggest explosive dumps. In Navatkuli, the force has moved further toward the north and south of the railway line and is 5 km short of Jaffna railway station. In Urumparai and Kopai North also, further dents have been reported. It is learned that a number of LTTE men are deserting their cadres. Meanwhile, a large number of people in Navatkuli area who had moved out, are being taken to safer places by the peacekeeping force.

The All India Radio correspondent reporting from Jaffna says the peacekeeping force has made arrangements to distribute food grains to these people.

LTTE 'Masterplan' for Batticaloa Revealed

BK170539 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0521 GMT 17 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Top secret LTTE documents containing detailed plans for terrorist raids , laying of landmines and attacks on public establishments in the Batticaloa District were seized by a security patrol in the early hours of this morning.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the highly revealing top secret documents were found in the possession of a terrorist military leader whom they captured and who is now under interrogation.

Meanwhile another terrorist who was captured last night in Batticaloa by a security patrol during a search operation attempted to snatch the gun from one of his guards and jump out of the moving vehicle. While he was being brought under control the terrorist Arumugam Sasikavan had swallowed a cyanide capsule and killed himself.

6 LTTE Men Held for Sinhalese Bus Massacre

BK171143 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1132 GMT 17 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Six of the LTTE terrorists who slaughtered 11 Sinhalese bus passengers at Weli Oya, 25 miles north east of the eastern port city of Trincomalee yesterday morning, have been captured by Sri Lankan security forces, official sources told *Lanka Puwath* today.

They said the six belonged to the gang of terrorists led by Thavendran, brother of Pullendran, the leader of the LTTE massacre of 126 Sinhalese at Kitulotuwa and 26 Buddhist monks at Aranthalawa earlier this year.

Pullendran was one of 12 LTTE cadres who committed suicide by swallowing cyanide capsules at the Palaly military base Jaffna a few days ago, after they and five others were caught smuggling arms on the high seas north of Point Pedro by the Sri Lankan Navy.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the gang which killed the eight men (including three policemen in civils) and three women yesterday comprised three groups of terrorists who had come together for the massacre at Weli Oya.

After the brutal machine gun killings, the three groups had fanned out to Yan Oya, Kokilai and Kokatuduwa.

Sri Lanka security forces had moved in swiftly and attacked one group of terrorists who had gone to Kokatuduwa and were laying in ambush to massacre a bus load of school children who were due to pass the point of attack.

This LTTE group was routed and six of the terrorists were captured.

Fire Breaks Out at United National Party Building

BK181031 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1005 GMT 18 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (*Lanka Puwath*)—A fire occured in a building which houses the United National Party (UNP) office at Akurana, the parliamentary constituency of Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed.

The deputy inspector general of police (DIG), General Range Gamini Gunawardene told *Lanka Puwath* today that the upper floor of the building which was occupied by a plastic factory had caught fire last night.

The suspected cause of the fire was a short circuit. The roof of the building had collapsed. The UNP office was situated on the ground floor of the building.

The police had called in the government analyst and the electrical superintendent of the area to assist in investigations Mr Gunawardene, said.